

BATMAN No.16

10¢



APRIL-MAY

BATMAN

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

SURPRISE!

SOMEBODY LEARNS THE TRUE
IDENTITIES OF BATMAN & ROBIN!

WHO CAN HE BE?



BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

-THE BOY WONDER-

YOU HAVE HEARD THAT THE SAVAGE LEOPARD CANNOT CHANGE ITS SPOTS, NOR THE CARRION-EATING VULTURE BECOME A GENTLE DOVE --- BUT AS YOU TURN THE PAGES OF THIS STORY, YOU MAY BEGIN TO HAVE YOUR DOUBTS ! FOR THAT JEERING APE, THE JOKER -- THAT CRAFTY CLOWN OF CRIME, THAT GRINNING GARGOYLE OF GREED -- SUDDENLY FORSAKES HIS EVIL WAYS TO BECOME NOT ONLY AN HONEST, UPRIGHT CITIZEN, BUT A FIERCE FOE OF WRONG. DOERS AS WELL !....

READ ON -- AND SHARE THE THRILLING, SPINE-CHILLING ADVENTURES OF THOSE SEN- SATIONAL CRIME-CRUSHERS, BATMAN AND ROBIN, AS THEY BATTLE THROUGH THE PITFALLS OF PERIL AND MAZES OF MYSTERY WHEN -- "THE JOKER REFORMS!"

by
**BOB
KANE**

OUR HERO
THE MOST HONEST MAN IN TOWN

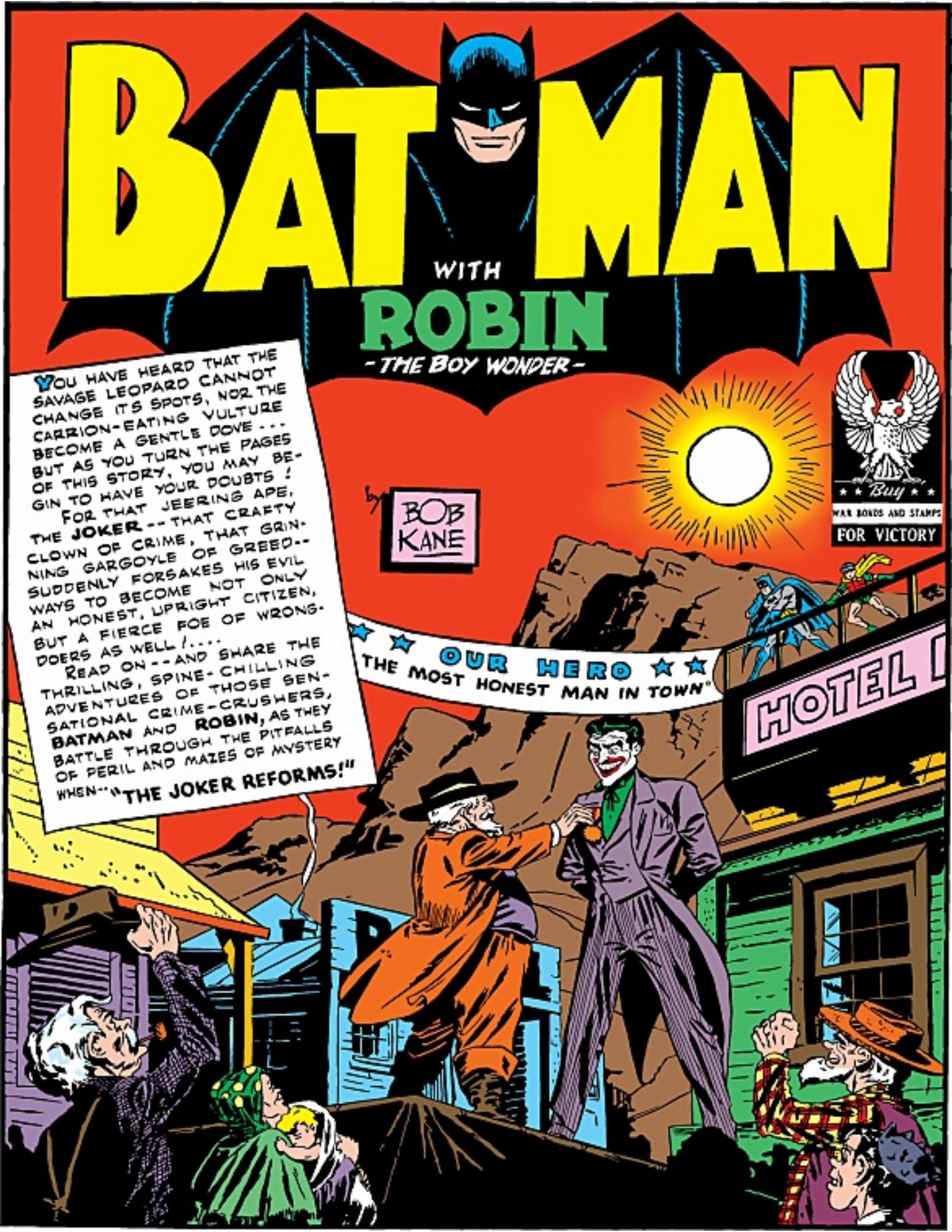


★ ★ ★
Buy
★ ★ ★

WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

FOR VICTORY

HOTEL



THIS IS THE LAZY LITTLE TOWN OF FARR CORNERS, HIDDEN DEEP IN THE WILDS OF THE OZARK MOUNTAINS...



AND THIS IS A STRANGER IN TOWN--A TALL, TRAVEL-WORN, WAYFARER WHOSE BUSINESS IS WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

EXCUSE ME, MY GOOD MAN... CAN YOU DIRECT ME TO THE CHIEF TH' CONSTABLE... PLAYIN' CHECKERS WITH SAM UPSON IN TH' STORE?

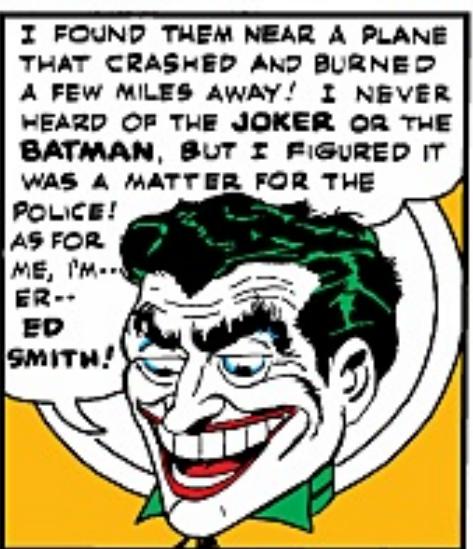
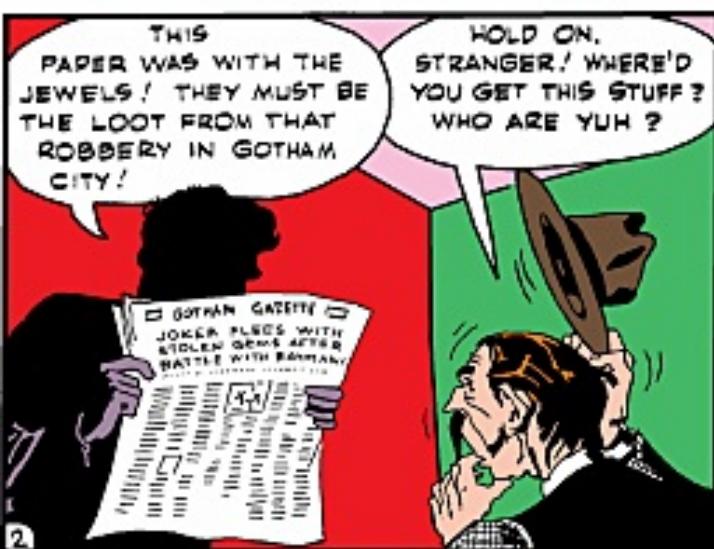
RECKON YUH MEAN JEB JOHNSON, TO THE CHIEF TH' CONSTABLE... PLAYIN' CHECKERS WITH SAM UPSON IN TH' STORE!

THIS WILL PROBABLY BE THE BIGGEST CASE THE CONSTABLE HAS EVER WORKED ON...

GENERAL STORE AND POST OFFICE
SAM UPSON PROPRIETOR AND POSTMASTER

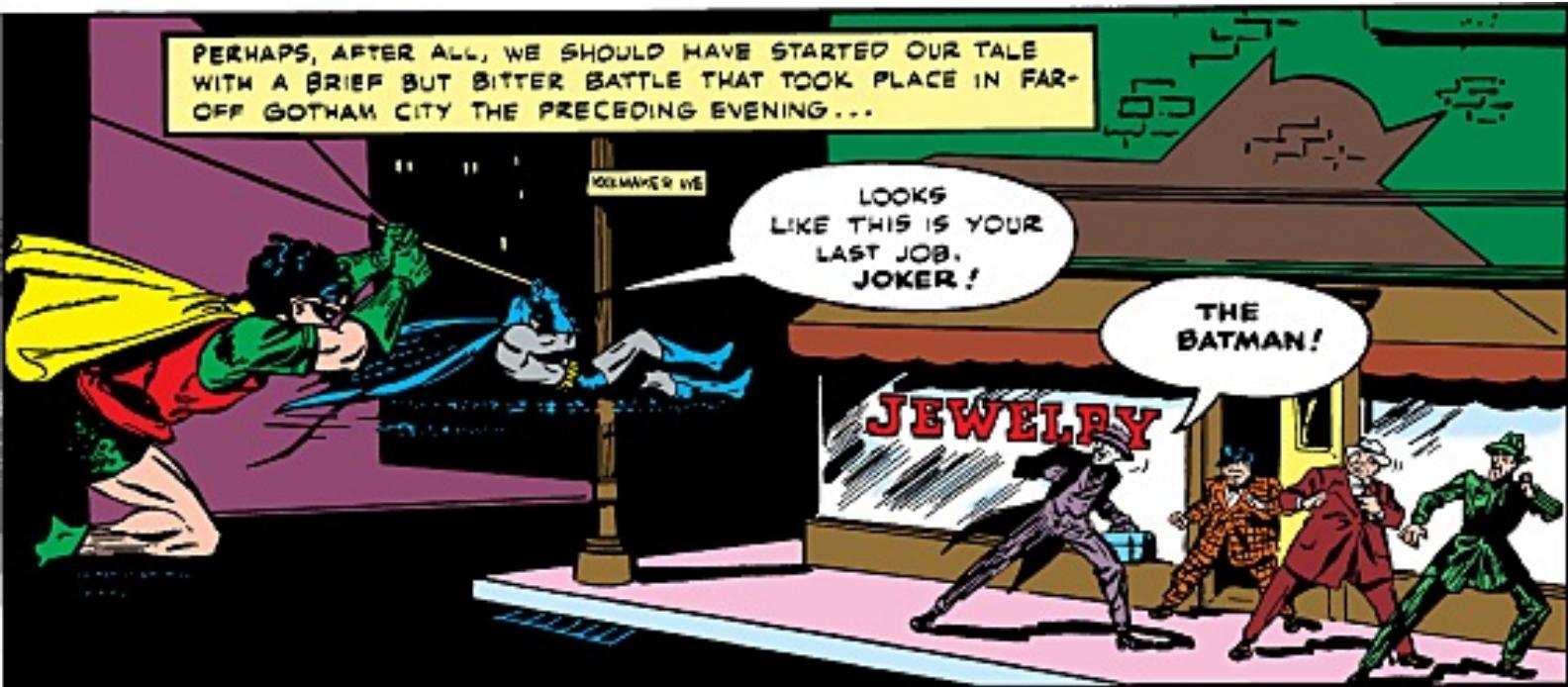


IF YOU COULD SPARE A MINUTE FROM YOUR GAME TO LOOK THESE OVER...



WAIT A MINUTE! WHERE HAVE WE SEEN THESE LEERING FEATURES BEFORE--THESE GRINNING, CRIMSON LIPS, THESE GLITTERING EYES, ALIVE WITH SATANIC CUNNING? ...WHY, IT'S THE JOKER HIMSELF--UNDYING ENEMY OF THE MIGHTY BATMAN! BUT AGAIN, WAIT! IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THIS GREEDY CLOWN OF CRIME--THIS HARLEQUIN OF HATE--IS ACTUALLY AIDING THE FORCES OF LAW AND ORDER, SURRENDERING HIS SPOILS TO THE POLICE?

PERHAPS, AFTER ALL, WE SHOULD HAVE STARTED OUR TALE WITH A BRIEF BUT BITTER BATTLE THAT TOOK PLACE IN FAR-OFF GOTHAM CITY THE PRECEDING EVENING...



SWIFTER AND MORE ACCURATE THAN THE CRIMINALS' BULLETS, THE FLASHING FISTS OF THE BATMAN AND ROBIN FIND UNWILLING TARGETS...



BUT THE JOKER'S EVIL BAG OF TRICKS CONTAINS ONE THAT TURNS THE TIDE TEMPORARILY AGAINST JUSTICE...



THAT CLEVER FIEND HAS DONE IT AGAIN!

I THINK ONE OF THEM DROPPED THIS SCRAP OF PAPER... BUT MY EYES ARE BURNING SO I CAN'T READ WHAT'S ON IT!



MORNING FINDS A PLANE DRONING WESTWARD OVER A MOUNTAINOUS WILDERNESS...

HA, HA! I SHOWED THE BATMAN I WAS TOO SMART FOR HIM! EH, BOYS?

YOU SURE DID, JOKER! WITH THESE ROCKS AN' TH' STUFF FROM OUR OTHER JOBS, WE'LL BE MILLIONAIRES!

ME, THE BRAINIEST CRIMINAL ON EARTH -- AND YOU THREE, THE MOST SKILLFUL OPERATORS IN THE UNDERWORLD! WE'VE HAD A LOT OF FUN, HAVEN'T WE, SPARKY?

I'LL HAVE MORE FUN WHEN I GET TO WHERE YOU CACHED THE SWAG AND I GET MY SHARE!



WE'LL BE THERE IN JUST A FEW MINUTES AND --- WHAT'S THIS? THE ENGINE'S GETTING READY TO QUIT!



WHAT A SPOT FOR A FORCED LANDING! WE'D NEVER MAKE IT!

QUICK --- BAIL OUT IN YOUR CHUTES!... I'LL HOLD HER STEADY TILL YOU'VE GONE, AND THEN I'LL FOLLOW YOU!

CHES --- I DON'T MIND SKOOLIN', BUT DIS HIGH-DIVIN' ACT HAS GOT ME SCARED STIFF!



SO IT IS THAT THREE SILKEN PARACHUTES MUSHROOM IN THE AIR HIGH ABOVE THE WOODED HILLS...

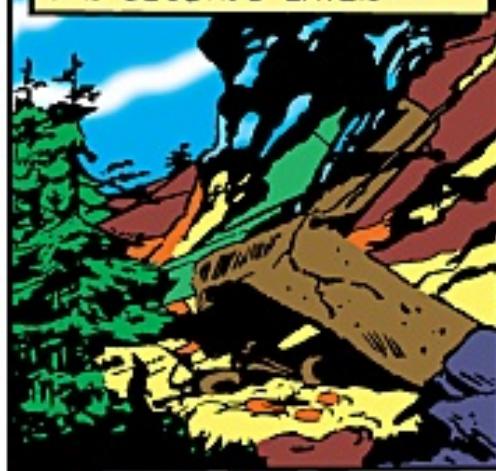


WHILE THE JOKER'S GREED DRIVES HIM TO A TREACHEROUS GAMBLE WITH FATE!

HA, HA! WHAT FOOLS THEY ARE! IF I CAN KEEP THIS PLANE IN THE AIR, I WON'T HAVE TO SPLIT WITH THEM! THEY'LL NEVER FIND THE HIDDEN LOOT -- AND THEY'LL NEVER SEE ME AGAIN! HA, HA!



BUT THE MOTOR IS IN WORSE SHAPE THAN THE ARCH-CROOK REALIZES... FLAMES BURST FROM THE COWLING -- THE CRAFT DIVES SHARPLY -- AND SECONDS LATER



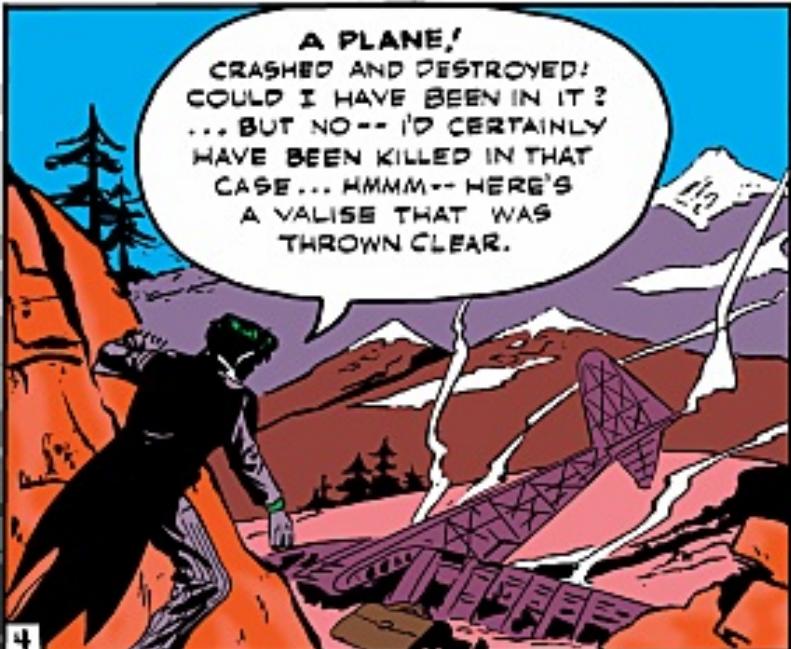
HOURS PASS -- AND IN A DENSE RAVINE NOT FAR FROM THE SMOKING RUINS OF THE PLANE, A SPRAWLED FIGURE STIRS...



WHO AM I ? FUNNY... CAN'T SEEM TO REMEMBER A THING ! OH, WELL, -- PERHAPS IT WILL ALL COME BACK AS THE SHOCK WEARS OFF ... OH, ... MY HEAD IS SPINNING...



A PLANE! CRASHED AND DESTROYED! COULD I HAVE BEEN IN IT ? ... BUT NO -- I'D CERTAINLY HAVE BEEN KILLED IN THAT CASE ... HMM -- HERE'S A VALISE THAT WAS THROWN CLEAR.



JEWELS WORTH A FORTUNE! WONDER IF THIS NEWSPAPER THAT WAS INSIDE THE VALISE CAN TELL ME ANYTHING...?



WHY, THIS MUST BE THE LOOT FROM THAT ROBBERY! AND THE JOKER - WHOEVER HE IS - MUST HAVE BEEN BURNED TO DEATH MAKING HIS GETAWAY! JUST ONE MORE PROOF THAT CRIME DOESN'T PAY !



THESE GEMS
WOULD MAKE ME RICH --
BUT IT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT TO
KEEP THEM I'LL TURN
THEM OVER TO THE
AUTHORITIES ...



EVENTUALLY,
THIS ROAD WILL LEAD ME
TO SOME TOWN, WHERE I CAN
GIVE THIS STUFF TO THE POLICE
... AND MAYBE, ON THE WAY,
MY MEMORY WILL COME BACK!



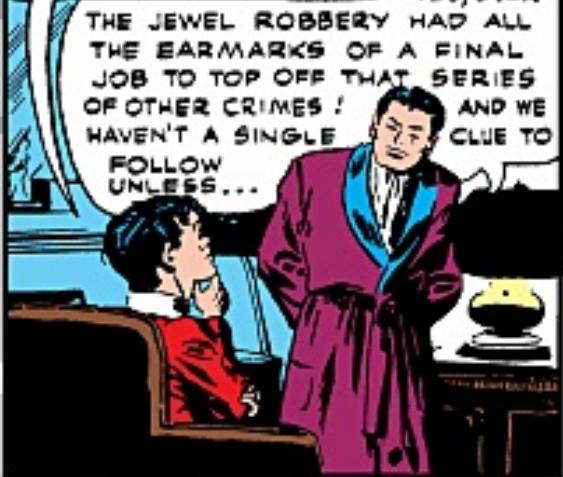
SO YOU SEE, THE AGE
OF MIRACLES IS NOT
PAST! CALL IT SHEER
LUCK THAT THE JOKER
WAS THROWN CLEAR
OF HIS DOOMED PLANE
INTO BUSHES THAT
CUSHIONED HIS FALL ...
USE THE SOLID SCIEN-
TIFIC TERM AMNESIA
TO EXPLAIN HIS LOSS
OF MEMORY DUE TO
SHOCK ... BUT WHEN
WE SEE THAT warped
AND TWISTED MIND
TURNING TO THOUGHTS
OF HONESTY -- WELL,
MIRACLE IS THE ONLY
WORD THAT FITS THE
CASE!

IN GOTHAM CITY, MEANWHILE,
BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG
WARD, DICK GRAYSON, CON-
SIDER THEIR NEXT MOVE...

SO YOU THINK THE JOKER HIT
FOR THE TALL TIMBERS?

YES, DICK-

THE JEWEL ROBBERY HAD ALL
THE EARMARKS OF A FINAL
JOB TO TOP OFF THAT SERIES
OF OTHER CRIMES! AND WE
HAVEN'T A SINGLE
CLUE TO
FOLLOW
UNLESS...



.... UNLESS THIS
SCRAP OF PAPER WE
FOUND NEAR THE
ROBBERY SCENE IS
A CLUE ... IT BEARS
THE NAME OF A MAN
AND A TOWN IN THE
OZARKS -- "JOE KERS-
WAG, FARR CORNERS" --
BUT WE AREN'T
EVEN SURE
THE JOKER
DROPPED
IT!



YOU'RE RIGHT, YOUNG FELLA -- WE
MIGHT BETTER BE TAKING A LOOK AT
FARR CORNERS THAN TWIDDLE OUR
THUMBS HERE!

I CAN'T
RELAX ANYWAY,
THINKING OF THAT
LAUGHING HYENA
GETTING AWAY WITH
STOLEN MILLIONS!



CLOAKED AND MASKED, EAGER FOR ANOTHER BOUT WITH
THE JOYOUS JACK-OF-ALL-CRIMES, THE BATMAN AND
ROBIN FOLLOW A TUNNEL TO A SECRET UNDERGROUND
HANGAR ...



GET
THAT PROPELLER
TURNING!

A SUPERCHARGED MOTOR THUNDERS
A CHALLENGE OF UNSURPASSED
POWER AS THE BATPLANE STREAKS
INTO THE SKY ...

WESTWARD HO, ROBIN! WONDER
WHAT WE'LL FIND AT THE END
OF THIS TRIP?



AS LONG AS
IT'S EXCITING,
I WON'T
COMPLAIN!

WHILE THE DYNAMIC DUO OF CRIME-SMASHERS IS WINGING SWIFTLY TOWARD ADVENTURE, THREE POLEFUL CROOKS PLOD GLUMLY TOWARD THE OUTSKIRTS OF FARR CORNERS...

WHAT A ROTTEN BREAK! THE JOKER AND THE JEWELS GONE -- AND WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THE REST OF THE SWAG IS PLANTED!

YA WANNA KNOW WHAT I TINK, KITE? I TINK THE JOKER PULLED A FAST ONE AN' LIT OUT WIT' DA BOOPPLE!

YOU'RE DREAMING, MITRO! WE DIDN'T SEE HIM JUMP, SO HE MUST HAVE BURNED UP WITH THE CRATE! IT'S UP TO US TO GET BACK TO THE BIG TOWN AND MAKE ANOTHER STAKE!

I'M GOIN' BACK TA DA BIG TOWN, AWRIGHT, SPARKY--BUT WHEN I GET DERE, I'M GONNA START LOOKIN' FER DAT DOUBLE-CROSSER WIT' A PINEAPPLE IN ME POCKET!

THE DEJECTED TRIO HAS SPENT MUCH TIME WANDERING IN THE MOUNTAINS... AND THE SLEEPY VILLAGE HAS TAKEN ON A FESTIVE AIR SINCE LAST WE VISITED IT...

BIGGEST CELEBRATION SINCE MA HUPPER'S FUNERAL, HANK!

WELCOME OUR HERO

I'LL SAY THIS FUR FARR CORNERS-- NOBODY LIKES T' WORK, BUT WHEN THERE'S A PARTY BREWIN', EVERYBODY WAKES UP AN' GETS BUSY!

WONDER WHAT THE HICKS ARE CELEBRATING?

AS MAYOR O' THIS HERE TOWN, I HAVE ORDERED THIS HERE BLOW-OUT T'DO HONOR TO A STRANGER WHO HAS PUT FARR CORNERS ON TH' MAP AT LAST!

TOMORRA EVERY NEWS-PAPER IN AMERICA WILL TELL HOW ED SMITH BRUNG TO OUR ENTERPRISING CONSTABULE PRECIOUS JEWELS STOLE BY CROOKS FROM TH' WICKED CITIES O' TH' EAST, WHICH SAME HE FOUND OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS...

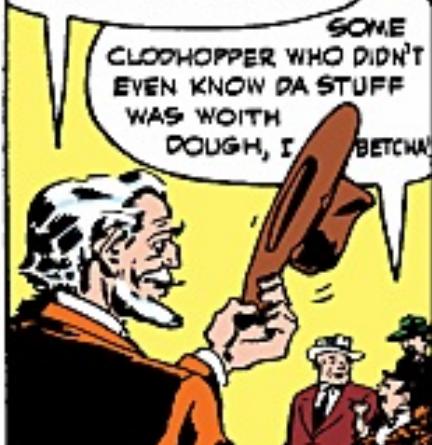
AIN'T IT WONDERFUL T' THINK TH' NAME O' FARR CORNERS WILL SMACK EVERY AMERICAN WHO CAN READ RIGHT IN TH' EYE FOLKS?

BUT THE JOKER'S ERSTWHILE COMRADES IN CRIME HAVE A SHOCK IN STORE FOR THEM...

AN' NOW I AM RIGHT DUMBOUNDED WITH JOY T' PRESENT TH' HONESTEST MAN IN THESE PARTS - GUEST O' HONOR -- ED SMITH HIMSELF, IN TH' FLESH!

SOMEBODY FOUND THE JOKER'S VALISE! MAYBE WE CAN STEAL IT BACK!

SOME CLOTHOPPER WHO DIDN'T EVEN KNOW DA STUFF WAS WOITH DOUGH, I BETCHYA





SPARKY'S RIGHT! THE JOKER'S FOOLING THE PEOPLE SO HE CAN PULL SOMETHING BIG -- AND HE'LL CUT US IN ON IT!



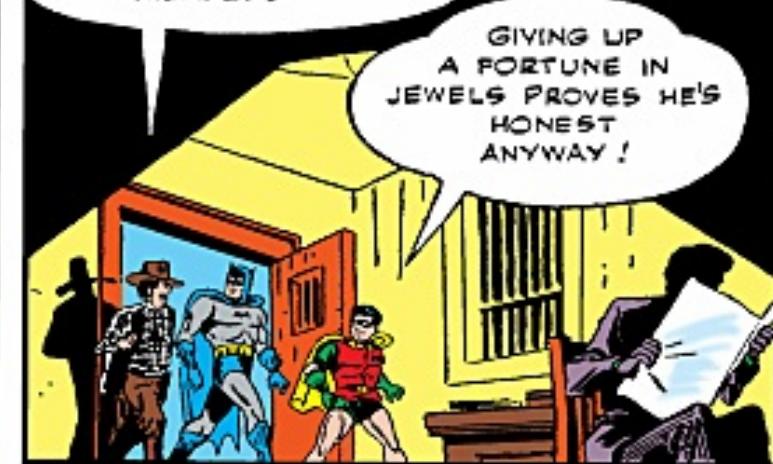
NIGHT -- AND TWO AWESOME FIGURES FLIT THROUGH BAT-LIKE SHADOWS CAST BY FESTIVAL TORCHES ...



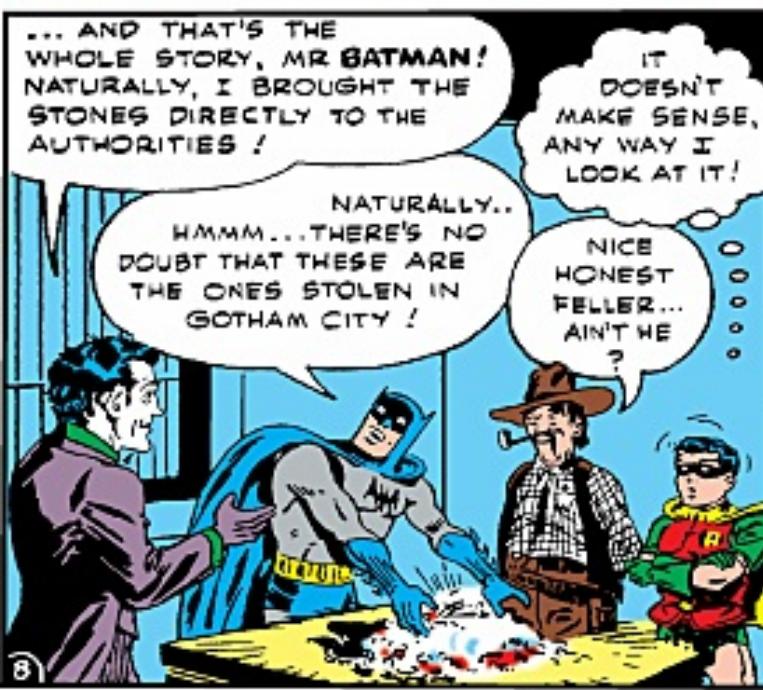
'COURSE, I AINT NEVER SEEN THE JOKER - NOT EVEN HIS PITCHER, WAY OUT HERE ! BUT COME OVER TO MY OFFICE AN' LET ED SMITH TELL YUH ABOUT IT ... HE'S SO MODEST, HE'S HIDIN' THERE FROM THE CROWDS !



YOU'LL LIKE THIS FELLER ! HE'S SO HONEST --- SO FRIENDLY !



YOU LOOK AS IF I WERE A GHOST ! IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG ?



LATER... WHY DIDN'T WE GRAB HIM RIGHT AWAY ?

IN THE FIRST PLACE, WHETHER OR NOT HE'S BLUFFING ABOUT NOT RECOGNIZING US, I WANT TO FIND OUT WHAT HIS GAME IS ... AND IN THE SECOND PLACE, I'D RATHER CATCH HIM WITH HIS LOOT FROM THOSE OTHER ROBBERIES THAN WITHOUT IT !



WE'LL WALK WITH YOU IF YOU DON'T MIND, JOK--ER, SMITH !

PSST ! HERE HE COMES !

TO THE SUSPICIOUS EYES OF THREE WATCHERS ON THE VERANDA OF THE LOCAL HOSTELRY, THE APPROACHING GROUP CAN HAVE ONLY ONE MEANING...



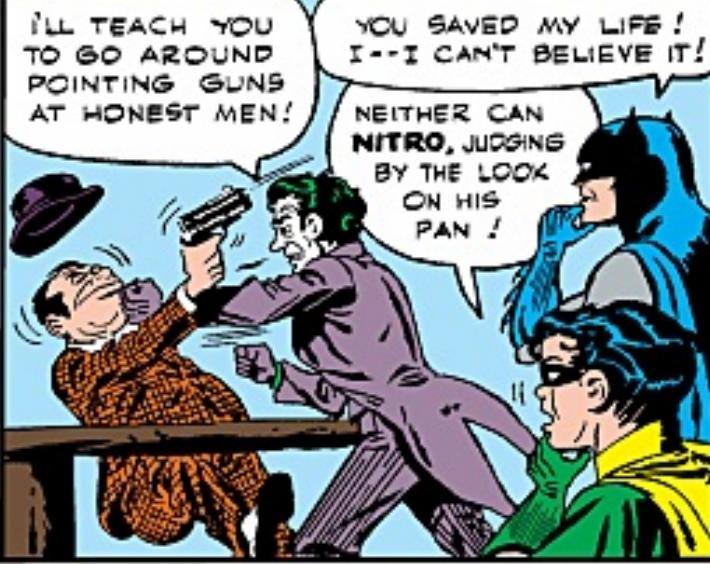
WHADDYA MEAN, GET OUT ? HOW CAN WE GET OUR DOUGH WITHOUT THE JOKER ?



THE NEXT INSTANT...



BUT WITH DEATH A HAIRSBREADTH AWAY, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN DISCOVER THAT THEY HAVE AN UNSUSPECTED ALLY !



YOU'RE ONE KITE THAT'S THROUGH WITH HIGH-FLYING FOR A WHILE !

WHY SHOULD THE BATMAN BE SURPRISED BECAUSE I KEPT HIM FROM BEING KILLED, ROBIN ?



... BUT RIGHT NOW, I'M TRYING TO STRIKE SPARKY'S EYEBROWS !

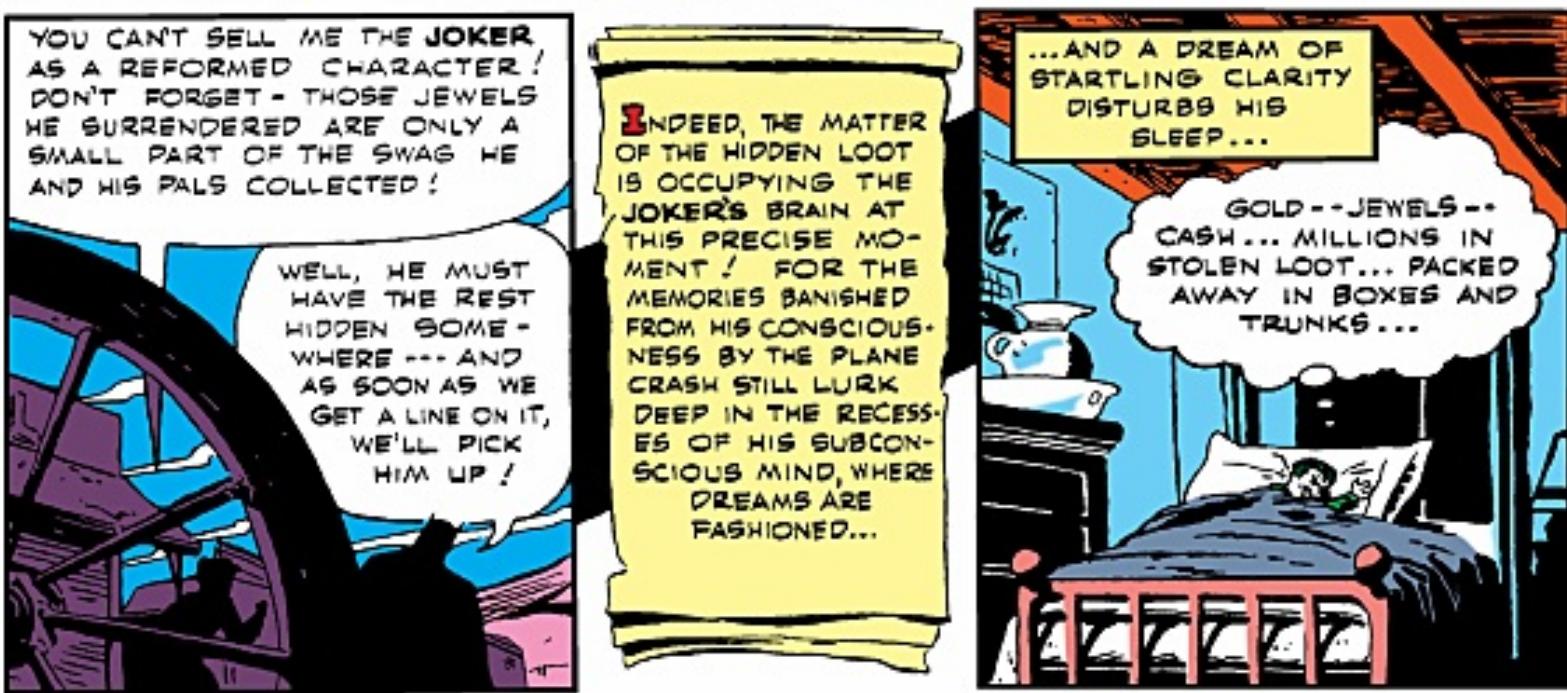


NO USE CHASING THEM IN THE DARK ... I'VE GOT A HUNCH THEY'LL BE COMING BACK !

WHAT WAS THAT LITTLE CHAP SAYING ABOUT THE JOKER ?

YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND, CHUM -- AND DON'T ASK ME WHY !





... BUT NOT UNSEEN !

SO DAT'S IT--
HE'S GONNA ROB DA
EXPRESS OFFICE WIT'OUT
LETTIN' US IN ON IT!

THE CHANCES
ARE IT'S SOMETHING
BIGGER THAN THAT... BUT
WHATEVER IT IS, WELL COUNT
OURSELVES IN !

INSIDE THE EXPRESS OFFICE...

WOULDN'T IT BE
FUNNY IF SOMEBODY
CAUGHT ME HERE ? WHY,
THEY'D PROBABLY THINK
I WAS A THIEF !
HA, HA, HA, HA !

"FUNNY" ISN'T THE WORD FOR IT, JOKER -- OR
RATHER, "ED SMITH" -- NOT IN THIS CASE !

AT LAST,
WE'VE GOT YOU
WHERE WE
WANT YOU !

WHAT ! YOU
HOODLUMS
AGAIN ?

YA
DONE US
DIRT FOR THE
LAST TIME !

ALL RIGHT--START TALKING !
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ?
WHERE'S THE
STUFF FROM
THOSE
ROBBERIES
WE
PULLED ?

STUFF FROM
ROBBERIES
YOU PULLED ?
IF YOU DON'T
KNOW, HOW
SHOULD I ?

LET'S
GET OUTA DIS TOWN !
WE GOT WAYS O' MAKIN'
HIM TALK !

THIS WILL KEEP
HIM QUIET TILL
WE GET HIM TO
A PLACE WHERE
NOISE WON'T
MATTER !

AA-AA

AND AT THAT VERY MOMENT,
THE BATMAN'S MIND SOLVES
A PROBLEM THAT HAS PUZZLED
HIM ALL DAY...

THAT SCRAP OF PAPER WE FOUND
IN GOTHAM CITY... "JOE KERSWAG"
... OF COURSE -- I'VE GOT IT !
COME ON, ROBIN -- TO THE
EXPRESS OFFICE !

SNAP !
HUH ?

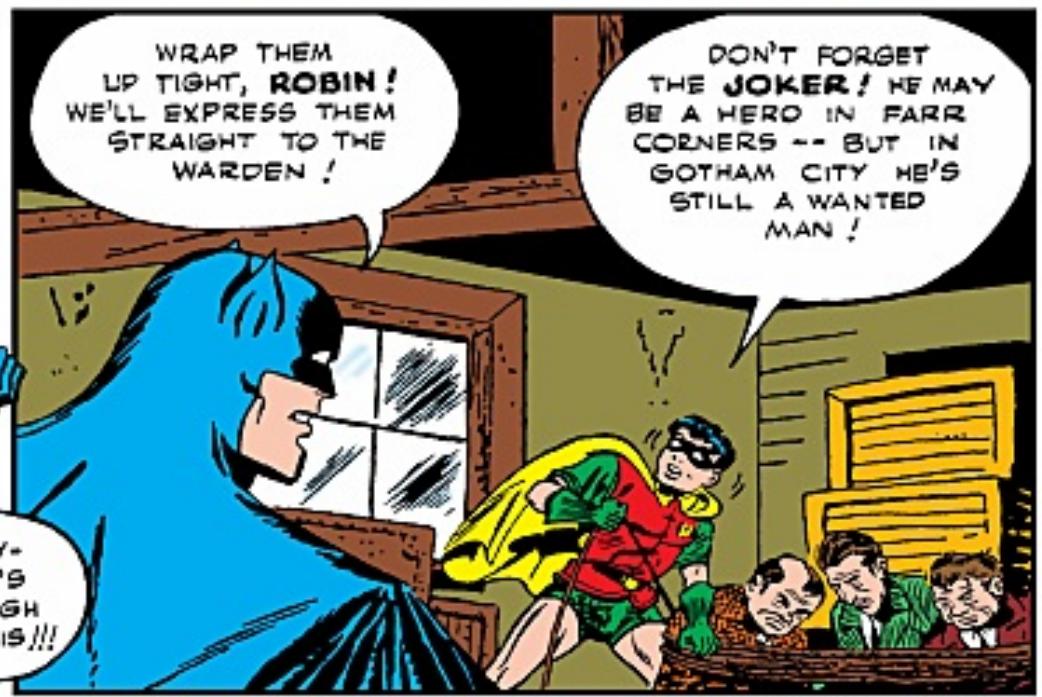
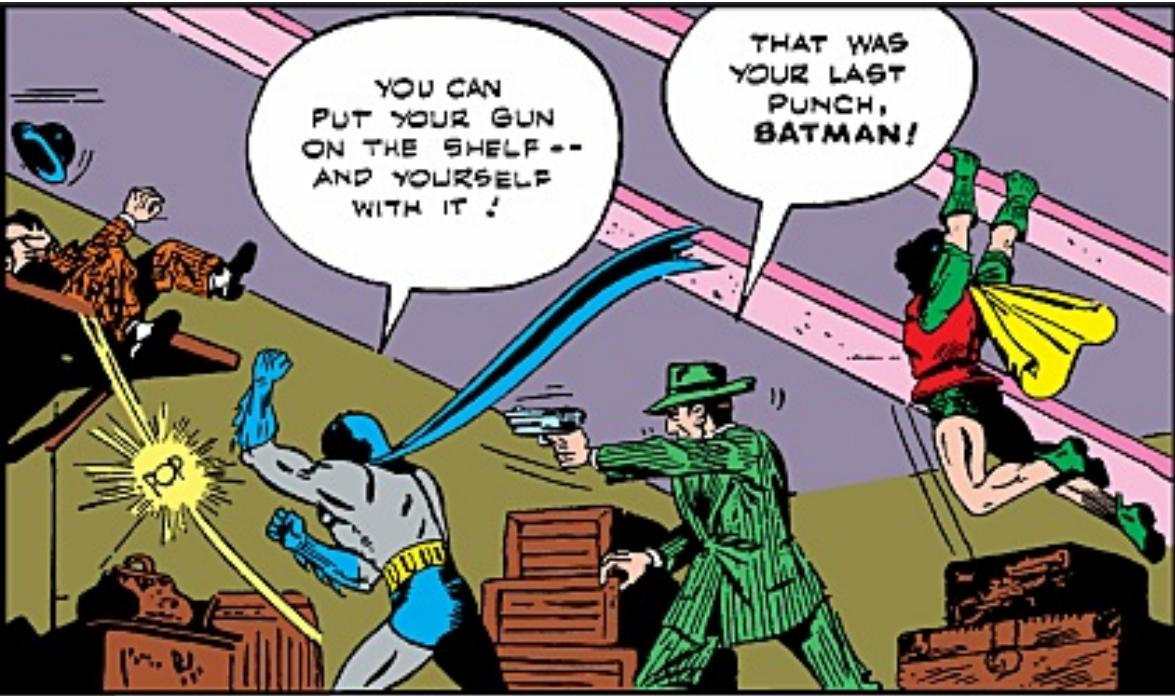
SECONDS LATER, THE BATTING DUO LEAPS LIKE TWIN
PROJECTILES THROUGH AN OPEN WINDOW...

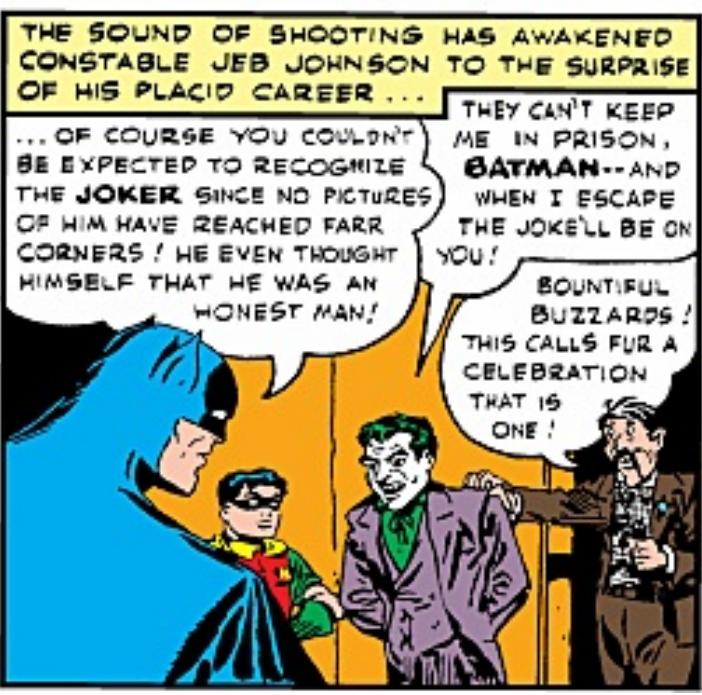
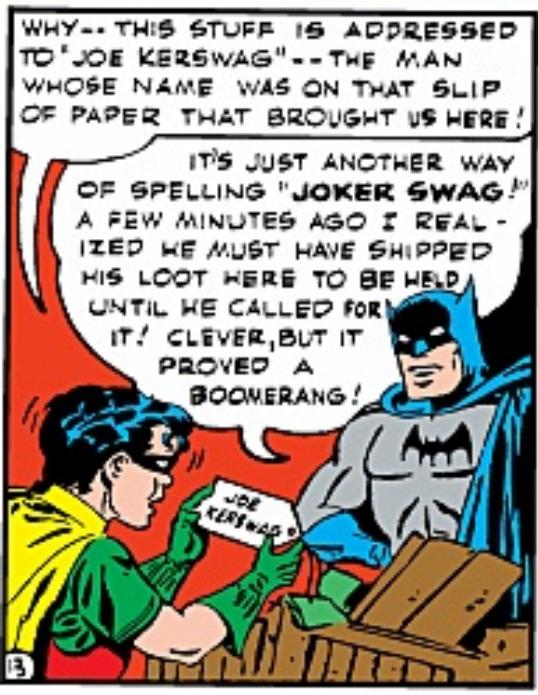
WELL, WELL -- LOOKS AS
IF WE'RE GOING TO HAVE THE
RARE EXPERIENCE OF
RESCUING THE JOKER
FROM CRIMINALS !

THE
BATMAN !

AND
ROBIN !







BATMAN

WITH

ROBIN

- THE BOY WONDER -

ROBBERY AND VIOLENCE RUN RAMPANT AS A NEW, BAFFLING CRIME WAVE SWEEPS OVER GOTHAM CITY - AN EVIL BREW CONCOCTED IN THE FERTILE BRAIN OF AN INGENIOUS CRIMINAL! UNsuspected, UNKNOWN... HE WALKS AMONG HIS VICTIMS - WHILE HIS HIRELINGS OBEY HIS COMMANDS AND ESCAPE BEFORE THE VERY EYES OF THE PUZZLED POLICE! EVEN THE AGILE WITS OF **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**, THE BOY WONDER, ARE PUT TO A SEVERE TEST WHEN THEY TRY TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF ---

"The GRADE A CRIMES!"

GRADE
A

THE DARK HOUR BEFORE DAWN --- GOTHAM CITY SLEEPS! ALL BUT THE FAITHFUL SERVANTS OF RICH AND POOR ALIKE - THE MILKMEN!

CURRINGTON CLOTH

SUDDENLY! A RINGING SHOT CRASHES THROUGH THE SILENCE ... A SHADY FIGURE SPEEDS QUICKLY INTO THE DARKNESS ...

... TO BE SWALLOWED UP BY THE NIGHT--LEAVING ONLY THE MILKMAN AND HIS HORSE PLODDING ON THEIR WEARY ROUND!



NEXT MORNING ...



MEANWHILE, IN A DISTANT HIDEOUT, AN ARCH-CRIMINAL MAPS A MASTER PLAN FOR PLUNDER!

OKAY, BOYS! WE'RE ON OUR WAY! THAT FIRST JOB WENT WITHOUT A SNAG! HERE'S THE LAYOUT ON TONIGHT'S SHOW. YOUR PART'S A CINCH!

GEE, BOSS, THIS SURE IS A SWEET RACKET! WHOEVER YOU ARE, WE GOTTA HAND IT TO YA!

HA! WHAT A SENSATION IF MY IDENTITY WERE KNOWN! ... AT LAST I SHALL REAP THE REWARD OF MY CAREFUL PLANS... THE FABULOUS GEMS OF THE AGES WILL BE LONG TO ME!



... **THUS STARTS THE BAFFLING "EARLY BIRD" CRIME WAVE...** WITHOUT WARNING, THE MYSTERY CRIMINALS STRIKE! UNSEEN, THEY MELT BACK INTO THE NIGHT!



... **AND ALWAYS** THEY WORK IN THOSE EERIE HOURS BEFORE DAWN --- WHEN ONLY THE MILKMAN AND THE WARY CRIMINAL TRAVERSE THE CITY'S STREETS!

ANOTHER EARLY BIRD CRIME! AND THE CROOKS GONE LIKE GHOSTS!

HELP! HELP! THE RAJAH RUBY'S BEEN STOLEN!



WHILE SOMEWHERE NEAR THE CRIME-SWEPT CITY, THE MASTER CRIMINAL GLOATS!

AH! ANOTHER FLAWLESS BEAUTY! I'LL NEVER SELL THIS ONE!

AND, AS ONE NIGHT HE LEAVES THE LAVISH MORGON MANSION, WITH HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON..

THE MYSTERIOUS CRIME WAVE CONTINUES! CLUES? NONE! BUT THERE IS A PATTERN FOR THOSE WHO CAN SEE IT — AND THERE IS ONE WHO CAN! BATMAN, THAT NEMESIS OF CRIME WHO CLOAKS HIS IDENTITY BEHIND THE GUISE OF PLAYBOY BRUCE WAYNE!

AN ODD TRICK OF LIGHT THROWS THE SHADOW OF BATMAN ON A WALL... A WARNING OMEN TO GANGDOM!

THAT'S A MIGHTY STRANGE BUSINESS.. NO CLUES, NO CROOKS - AND NO JEWELS!

WHAT PUZZLES ME IS HOW THOSE THUGS GET IN SO EASILY! ALMOST LIKE GHOSTS!

SUDDENLY... A SHOT! A PIERCING CRY... AND THE SHARP STACCATO OF RUNNING FEET!

CRACK!

YAAAAAAA!

YES, BUT GHOSTS DON'T SHOOT!

— AND THAT MEANS WORK FOR US!

INSTANTLY—A STARTLING CHANGE COMES OVER THE PAIR! A FEW QUICK, MOVEMENTS, AND THEY RACE DOWN THE STREET AS BATMAN AND ROBIN!

ANOTHER EARLY BIRD CRIME! THAT SHOT CAME FROM THE MORGON MANSION

LOOK! SOMEONE'S GETTING AWAY!

YEOW! BATMAN!

NOT SO FAST, PAL!

BUT AS BATMAN STRUGGLES WITH THE CLOAKED CRIMINAL, ANOTHER FIGURE LEAPS SUDDENLY FROM THE SHADOWS!

SOCK!



AND THE SCALES ARE TIPPED AGAINST THE GALLANT DUO... WITH YOUNG ROBIN'S LIFE IN THE BALANCE!

STEP BACK, WISE GUY... OR THIS KID'LL LOOK LIKE A WOODPECKER'S MASTERPIECE!

OKAY! YOU WIN! BUT THIS IS ONLY ROUND ONE!



A VICIOUS BLOW CRASHES AGAINST BATMAN'S SKULL!

HERE'S YOUR PRECIOUS BRAT!

YOU'RE NOT SO TOUGH NOW, BATMAN! LET'S SCRAM, SPARKS!



BRIEF MOMENTS LATER...



DOWN THE STREET CLATTERS A MILKWAGON, TOWED BY A WEARY OLD HORSE...

THEY WENT THIS WAY! MAYBE THAT MILKMAN SAW THEM!

CLIPPER CLIP-LOP



...YES, A ROBBERY AND SHOOTING! YOU'RE CERTAIN YOU DIDN'T SEE ANYONE?

NOPE! NOT EVEN A CAT! ME AND OLD DAISY HERE SURE WOULD HAVE SPOTTED 'EM!



A BEWILDERED DUO TURNS BACK TOWARD THE SILENT MORGAN MANSION...

WELL, AT LEAST WE CAN FIND OUT ABOUT THAT SHOT!

THERE WAS NO ONE IN THE HOUSE BUT THE GUARD... EVERYONE LEFT ON THE MORGAN YACHT!



MOVING WARILY THROUGH THE DARK HALLS, THE CRIME-FIGHTERS REACH A HALF-OPENED DOOR—AND FIND...

BATMAN, LOOK! THAT'S THE ROOM WHERE THE GIFTS WERE, DISPLAYED!

SOMEONE'S LYING ON THE FLOOR!

IT'S THE GUARD!

POOR CHAP... HE DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE, SHOT IN THE BACK BY THOSE YELLOW MURDERERS!



HMM! THEY TOOK ONLY THE JEWELS AGAIN... LEFT ALL THIS VALUABLE SILVER!
HEY!
WHAT'S THIS?

A WHITE BUTTON, TORN FROM A WHITE COAT... AND THOSE CROOKS WERE WEARING BLACK MANTLES... VERY ODD!

TWO WEARY ADVENTURERS FINALLY REACH HOME---AND BED!

I'VE GOT TO FIGURE THIS OUT! ALWAYS THE SAME PATTERN... MYSTERIOUS ENTRY AT 3 OR 4 A.M.,--ONLY VALUABLE GEMS STOLEN... THE GUARD ALWAYS TAKEN BY SURPRISE, AND SHOT IN THE BACK! AND A PARTY ALWAYS PRECEDING THE LOOTING... WHAT'S IT ALL MEAN?

HO! HUM!
DON'T FORGET THAT WHITE BUTTON!



NEXT MORNING... BRUCE AND DICK ARE STILL TRYING TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY...

I KNOW THE ANSWER'S RIGHT HERE! IF I CAN JUST FIT THE PIECES TOGETHER... THIS WHITE BUTTON... THE WHOLE CRIME PATTERN...

MMM!
THIS
MILK
TASTES
GOOD!

MILK! THAT'S IT! WOW!
WHAT A SET-UP! SO SIMPLE...
SO COMPLETELY SAFE! WHAT A FOOL I AM! LET THEM SLIP RIGHT OUT OF MY HANDS!

OOPS!
...LET ME
IN ON
THIS!

--ALL THIS ADDS UP AT LAST! 4 A.M. IN THE MORNING - A WHITE BUTTON - MYSTERIOUS GETAWAY...
THE MILKMAN.

JEPPERS!
YOU MEAN THAT MILK DRIVER WAS ONE OF THE CROOKS?



RIGHT! THE OTHER THUG WAS PROBABLY HIDING IN THE BACK OF THE MILK WAGON! NOW TO FIGURE OUT HOW THEY GOT IN SO EASILY... DICK, WE'RE GOING TO A PARTY TONIGHT!

OKAY - BUT THIS NIGHT LIFE IS WEARING ME DOWN!



IN BRUCE WAYNE'S LABORATORY . . .

IT'S ALL CLEAR NOW! THOSE CRIMES ALWAYS OCCUR AFTER A PARTY! THAT MEANS SOMEONE AT EACH PARTY IS THE INSIDE MAN - GETS THE LAYOUT, MAYBE STEALS THE KEYS...

YOU MEAN THE CROOKS WILL PROBABLY STRIKE AT WINTHROP'S AFTER THE SHINDIG, TONIGHT?



SURE! THE DORLAI DIAMOND'S THE BEST BAIT YET! HERE, ROBIN - PREPARE THIS FORMULA WHILE I DO SOME CHECKING UP ON THOSE OTHER PARTIES!

RIGHT!



AS THE MID-NIGHT HOUR CHIMES, AN AWESOME SHAPE WINGS SILENTLY ACROSS THE SKY... THE BATPLANE!



AND, LIKE A GREAT, SILENT BIRD, IT COMES TO REST ON THE ROOF OF A PALATIAL MANSION!



OUR FISHING SHOULD BE DOUBLY GOOD TONIGHT! WHOEVER'S BEHIND THESE CRIMES MUST BE A BIG SHOT IN THE MILK INDUSTRY - OR THOSE MILKMAN CROOKS COULD NEVER GET AWAY WITH IT!

A PRECARIOUS CLIMB DOWN A VINE-TRELLISED WALL...



HOW DO YOU KNOW?

AND THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF DAIRY AND MILK COMPANY MEN AT TONIGHT'S PARTY!

... AND TWO MORE DISTINGUISHED GUESTS JOIN THE PARTY... UNSEEN!



S-S-SH! HERE COME SOME PEOPLE. LOOK! IT'S WINTHROP HIMSELF WITH ANOTHER GUEST.

A RARE GEM, BILL! ALMOST PRICELESS! I'M KEEPING IT MIGHTY WELL GUARDED!

WELL, WINTHROP, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE DORLAI DIAMOND? AS A JEWEL COLLECTOR, YOU SHOULD KNOW ITS WORTH!

(BETTER THAN YOU THINK, WINTHROP!)
YOU SEE, ROBIN, WINTHROP IS TREAS-
URER OF THE PURITY MILK CO. —
BIGGEST IN TOWN!

I GET IT!
THAT MEANS
PLENTY OF HIS
BUSINESS FRIENDS
WILL BE HERE —
INCLUDING THE
"INSIDE MAN" WHO'S
THE CHIEF CROOK!

EXACTLY! ONLY TROUBLE IS,
WINTHROP AND AT LEAST THREE
OTHERS IN THERE WERE PRE-
SENT AT THE OTHER PARTIES...
I CHECKED UP THIS AFTERNOON.



LIKE AN EVIL GNOME OF NIGHT, THE CLOAKED MARAUDER STEALS UP ON THE HELPLESS GUARDS!

CAN'T LET THEM SHOOT THE GUARDS! HAVE TO CHANGE MY PLANS SOMEWHAT!

JUST SO'S YOU WON'T LOOK DRUGGED, I'LL PUMP SOME LEAD INTO YA!

AN AGILE, CAT-LIKE LEAP...AND A LEAN FIGURE SPRINGS FROM THE SHADOWS!



WITHOUT WARNING, A GLARING BEAM OF LIGHT STABS OUT FROM NOWHERE---BLINDING BATMAN!

AND YOU'VE SEEN TOO MUCH FOR YOUR OWN HEALTH!

WHAT..!



A BULLET WHINES THROUGH THE AIR...



...AND A CRUMPLED FIGURE LIES UPON THE FLOOR! CAN IT BE? HAS THE CHAMPION OF JUSTICE FOUGHT HIS LAST BATTLE AGAINST EVIL?

HE DON'T LOOK LIKE HE'LL EVER GO ANYPLACE AGAIN! BUT WE'LL MAKE SURE!



HELP! HE AIN'T DEAD!

I'M NO GHOST,
BROTHER! JUST AN OLD
ARMY TRICK—PRETEND
YOU'RE SHOT—THROW
ENEMY OFF GUARD!

AND AS THE MIGHTY
MAN OF NIGHT FIGHTS
THE PLUNDERERS, A
STRANGE TABLEAU IS
ENACTED OUTSIDE!

INSIDE...THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES..
DIDN'T PLAN
ON HAVING
THIS
FIGHT!

I'M...GASP...
GASP...CHOKING!
U-UNCLE!

WOA THERE,
FELLER! YOU'RE
GOING TO HELP
US CATCH
SOME BAD
EGGS!

SAY
UNCLE!

A HAND SNAKES OUT---A FINGER CLOSES,
SLOWLY OVER A GUN TRIGGER!

BOY! I BET
YOU'RE BURNED
UP!

THIS TIME
I WON'T MISS!

A MINIATURE STREAK OF LIGHTNING
FLASHES ACROSS THE ROOM!

SNUG
AS A
THUG
IN A
RUG!

NICE
TIMING,
ROBIN!

HEY, BATMAN!
YOU GOT THE
WRONG GUY!

TAKE IT EASY, ROBIN!
YOU FORGET OUR
PLAN! HEAD FOR
THE BATPLANE!

I'M
GETTIN'
OUTA
HERE!

GET IT NOW, ROBIN? THEY'LL
HEAD STRAIGHT FOR THE DAIRY
STABLES—AND I'LL WAGER
THAT'S THE HIDEOUT WHERE
OUR CHIEF PRIZE IS!

SORRY,
BATMAN,
I LOST MY
HEAD!

GIT UP
THERE
DAISY!

A DARK SKY -
AND A WEIRD
SIGHT BELOW!
A SLEEK,
WINGED BLACK
PLANE FLYING
CLOSE ABOVE
A COUNTRY
ROAD!

THESE LENSES WILL FILTER
OUT THE INFRARED PAINT!
USED ON DAISY'S HOOFs.
LOOK! THERE'S THE FARM!

PRESENTLY, TWO SHAPES BLEND WITH THE
SHADOWS AS THEY STREAK THROUGH THE FARM GROUNDS!

THAT
HAYSTACK WILL
CONCEAL THE
BATPLANE...
LET'S TRY
THE BARNs
FIRST!

GOOD!
NOW TO
GET DOWN TO
EARTH-
AND
BUSINESS!

A MODEL FARM - GLEAMING
AND SPOTLESS... EQUIPPED
WITH EVERY MODERN ELEC-
TRICAL CONVENIENCE!

STILL SEEKING THE LAST CLUE
TO THE ROBBERIES... THE CRIME-
CRUSHERS SLIP SILENTLY
INTO THE MILKING BARN ...

SWIFTLY, THE DYNAMIC DUO DIS-
APPEARS... AS TWO WHITE-
COATED FIGURES ENTER THE BARN!

NOTHING OUT
OF ORDER HERE!
HOLY COW! WHAT
A NEAT IDEA FOR
A PERFECT
HIDE-OUT!

HERE'S
ONE OF
THOSE ELEC-
TRICAL MILK-
ING PUMPS
- WORK BY SUCTION!

QUICK!
INTO THE
STALL!
SOMEONE'S
COMING!

I TELL
YA, BOSS-
HE FOUGHT
LIKE TEN
MEN! WE
DIDN'T
STAND A
CHANCE!

YOU FOOLS!
I THOUGHT YOU
COULD AIM
STRAIGHT! HE
LET YOU GO FOR
A PURPOSE! PROB-
ABLY ON OUR TRAIL
RIGHT NOW... BUT
HE'LL NEVER
FIND THESE!

A FABULOUS, GLITTERING STREAM FLOWS
OUT OF THE MILKING PUMP... INTO A
MILK CAN!

WOW! I WISH
ALL COWS GAVE MILK
LIKE THIS!
TIME
FOR US TO
CLEAR OUT
OF HERE!
I'LL PAY
YOU BOYS
OFF AND
WE'LL
SCRAM.

THAT CACHE LOOKS
LIKE A REAL MILK-
ING PUMP... YOU'RE
SURE SMART, BOSS!
WHO'D LOOK FOR
JOOLS IN A
DAIRY!?

AS THOUGH FROM NOWHERE, TWIN THUNDERBOLTS
FLASH ACROSS THE BARN!

WE
WOULD! YOU'VE
DONE ENOUGH
"MILKING!"

GET
THE GANG,
SPARKS!
UGH!

YEOW!
BATMAN
AGAIN!

AND
DON'T
FORGET
ME!

WHERE'D THEY COME FROM?

TAKE A
STALL FOR,
YOURSELF!



A FURTIVE HAND STEALS
OUT—A LEVER FALLS!



... AND A
SUDDEN BLAST
OF WATER
PLUNGES
DOWNWARD!

THE
WASHING
SYSTEM!

WHAT
NEXT?
WATERFALLS
IN A
DAIRY!



HAMPERED BY THE CLINGING FOLDS OF HIS CAPE, BATMAN FIGHTS ON... BUT THE DYNAMIC DUO IS SOON OUTNUMBERED...

GLUG!
GLUG!

TSK! TSK!
CRYING
OVER SPILLED
MILK!

A DOUBLE-HEADER!
LOOK OUT, ROBIN!



... AND FINALLY OVERPOWERED!

WELL, WELL! NOBLE FIGHTING
DESERVES A NOBLE END!
TRIGGER, TAKE
THEM TO THE PAS-
TEURIZING PLANT!

DROP THAT
MASK, WIN-
THROP! I CAN
SEE RIGHT
THROUGH YOU!

BUT... BUT...
IT CAN'T BE!

WINTHROP! WEALTHY
TREASURER OF THE
PURITY MILK CO.,
HOST OF BARON KLINGE!
CAN HE BE THE
ARCH-CROOK?

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
YOU COULDN'T HAVE
KNOWN! EVEN
MY MEN DON'T
KNOW WHO
I AM!

I ADMIRE YOUR
CLEVER SLEUTHING,
BATMAN! WHAT
ELSE DID YOU
FIGURE
OUT?

IT WAS EASY, WINTHROP!
THE JOBS WERE HELPED
FROM THE INSIDE! YOU
WERE PRESENT AT EACH
PARTY! YOU GOT THE
SKELETON KEY! YOU
DRUGGED THE GUARDS! AND
YOU ARE THE JEWEL COL-
LECTOR! ONLY AN EXPERT
WOULD HAVE SELECTED
THE JEWELS YOU TOOK!



WHEN ONE OF YOUR THUGS LEFT A WHITE BUTTON BEHIND... THE REST WAS EASY! NO ONE SUSPECTED A MILKMAN, BUT A MILKMAN WAS ALWAYS AROUND!

TOO BAD YOU CAN'T REPORT YOUR FINDINGS! WHEN THIS THERMOMETER READS 145 DEGREES, YOU AND THE KID ARE GOING INTO THE VAT! GRADE A PASTEURIZED CORPSES!

BUT BATMAN HOLDS A DANGEROUS ACE! THE LIVE-STEAM HOSE FOR CLEANING THE VATS!

NOT SO FAST, WINTHROP! DON'T MOVE, ANYONE! ONE STEP AND YOU'LL LOOK LIKE STUFFED SHIRTS IN A STEAM LAUNDRY!

YEOW! IF HE TURNS THAT KNOB, WE'RE GONERS!

BOYS! LET ME OUTA HERE!

WHILE THE CROOKS FLEE IN CONFUSION, THE CRIME-FIGHTERS WORK SWIFTLY TO FREE THEMSELVES!

RUN! HE'LL STEAM US LIKE CLAMS!

THIS IS OUR ONLY CHANCE, ROBIN! BUT IF WE DON'T HURRY, WE'LL BE SCALDED TO DEATH.

... GEE! BATMAN... I'M TRYING! THERE-GOT IT!

BURSTING OUT OF THEIR BONDS-THE FIGHTING FURIES RACE AFTER THE FLEEING CROOKS!

PHEW! IT WAS GETTING STUFFY IN THERE!

THERE THEY GO-TOWARD THE BARN!

I'LL CLIMB TO THE TOP OF THE SILO AND KEEP MY EYES PEELED.

THE DOOR'S LOCKED TIGHT! OHO! BETTER HURRY! THEY'RE NOT LOOKING FOR A NEEDLE IN THAT HAY... MUST BE A TRAP DOOR!

TWO HEELS GET THE BOOT!

OUCH!

...WITH THE GREATEST OF EASE!

HELP! THERE ARE BATS IN HERE!

LIKE A GIANT, WINGED BIRD OF NIGHT, THE ACROBATMAN CRASHES THROUGH THE BARN, WINDOW!



AS THE MIGHTY BATMAN FIGHTS WITH THE STRENGTH OF MANY...

HEAVE HO!
AWAY WE GO!

A YOUNG DYNAMO MAKES A SURPRISE! ENTRANCE!

UGH!
GLUG!

AS DAYLIGHT GROWS STRONGER, THE UN-EVEN FIGHT IS FINISHED!

LEAVE THOSE CHAPS ON ICE TILL THE POLICE GET HERE! WINTHROP AND THE GEMS COME ALONG WITH US AS A PRESENT FOR THE COMMISSIONER!

(PUFF)
(PUFF)
THESE CROOKS
MUST CARRY
LEAD
WEIGHTS
ON 'EM!

A GLORIOUS SUNRISE
FILLS THE SKY —
AS THE VALIANT
VICTORS WING
HOMeward!

LATER --- IN POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE...

IMAGINE A MAN LIKE WINTHROP IN A CRIME RACKET! WHO'D SUSPECT HIM — OR THE MILKMEN?

THAT'S WHY IT WAS SUCH A NEAT SET-UP! WINTHROP PROBABLY BOUGHT THE SMALL DAIRY UNDER AN ASSUMED NAME, AND IF ANYONE FOUND OUT IT WAS HIS — WHY, HE COULD SAY IT WAS A HOBBY!

I JUST CHECKED OVER WINTHROP'S BOOKS FOR THE MILK COMPANY. THERE'S A LARGE FUND SHORTAGE HERE!

THAT EXPLAINS A LOT! HE MUST HAVE GAMBLED WITH THE COMPANY'S MONEY — AND HAD TO MAKE GOOD! HE SPENT EVERY CENT HE HAD ON COLLECTING JEWELS!

BACK IN THE WAYNE MANSION...

I SEE BY THE PAPERS THAT BATMAN AND ROBIN CAUGHT THOSE 'EARLY BIRD' CROOKS!

IT'S SORT OF IRONICAL, BRUCE! I BET DRINKING THIS STUFF IS WHAT MADE BATMAN AND ROBIN STRONG ENOUGH TO FIGHT THOSE MILKMEN ROBBERS! MMM... SURE IS GOOD!

THE
END

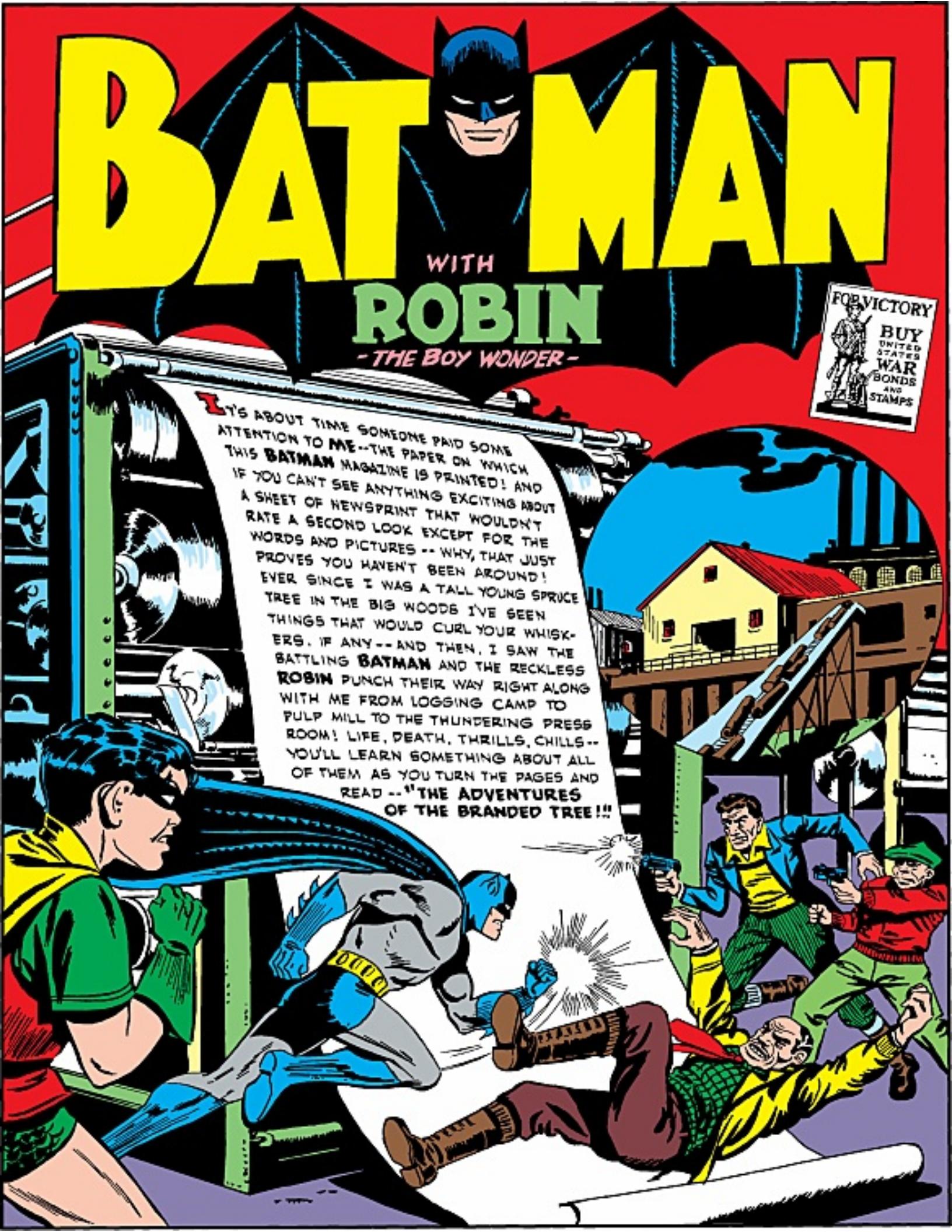
BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

-THE BOY WONDER-



IT'S ABOUT TIME SOMEONE PAID SOME ATTENTION TO ME--THE PAPER ON WHICH THIS BATMAN MAGAZINE IS PRINTED! AND IF YOU CAN'T SEE ANYTHING EXCITING ABOUT A SHEET OF NEWSPRINT THAT WOULDN'T RATE A SECOND LOOK EXCEPT FOR THE WORDS AND PICTURES -- WHY, THAT JUST PROVES YOU HAVEN'T BEEN AROUND! EVER SINCE I WAS A TALL YOUNG SPRUCE TREE IN THE BIG WOODS I'VE SEEN THINGS THAT WOULD CURL YOUR WHISKERS, IF ANY--AND THEN, I SAW THE BATTLING BATMAN AND THE RECKLESS ROBIN PUNCH THEIR WAY RIGHT ALONG WITH ME FROM LOGGING CAMP TO PULP MILL TO THE THUNDERING PRESS ROOM! LIFE, DEATH, THRILLS, CHILLS--YOU'LL LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT ALL OF THEM AS YOU TURN THE PAGES AND READ --"THE ADVENTURES OF THE BRANDED TREE!!!



MARK WELL THIS TREE
WITH THE DAGGER-
SHAPED SCAR CUT
DEEP IN THE LIVING
WOOD...



... FOR HERE BEGINS A DEADLY NORTH
WOODS DRAMA OF RAZOR-EDGED WITS
AND STEEL-HARD WEAPONS !

AY WONDER WHAT
THIS DAGGER MARK
BANE MEAN .
SCOTTY ?

FOOSH, YONSON -- I
PINNA DOOBST IT
MEANS NAETHIN' AT
ALL ! SOME DAFT
HUNTSMAN HACKED
IT HAVIN' NA
BETTER WOR-
R-R-RK !

AH, WEEL -- TWILL MAKE GOOD PULP
PAPER AT THE MILL, FOR A' IT'S
UGLY CAZ-R-R-RVIN' !

AY BANE GLAD HUNTING
SEASON OVER ! WOODS NOT
BANE SAFE FOR LUMBER-
TACKS WHEN CITY FALLERS
YUMP AROUND SHOOT-
ING EVERYT'ING
IN SIGHT !



BUT OLAF YONSON HAS SPOKEN
TOO SOON -- FOR A CERTAIN BREED
OF "CITY FALLERS" DOES NOT RECOG-
NIZE ANY CLOSED SEASON ON ITS
ILICIT HUNTING EXPEDITIONS...

IT'S RIGHT CLOSE BY... KEEP YOUR
EYES SKINNED FOR THE SIGN OF THE
DAGGER !

LISSEN -- I HEAR
SOMEBODY CHOPPIN' !

WHY'D THEY HAFTA PICK THAT TREE
OUT OF THE WHOLE FOREST ? YA DON'T
THINK THEY'RE WISE, DO YA, BULL ?

SHUT UP AND GET READY
TO PLUG 'EM WIT' DAT SILENCED
RIFLE ! WE'LL DO OUR T'INKIN'
AFTER WE'VE FINISHED DIS
JOB !

A MUFFLED POP -- AND A
STEEL-JACKETED SLUG
BORES INTO A MAN'S
DEFENSELESS BACK !

AAAA-A-A-A...

EH ?
MON, WHAT
AILS YE ?



REACH FOR DA
SKY, OR YA'LL
GET A TASTE
O' DA SAME !

WHY, YE MUR-R-R-RDERIN' SONS
O' SATAN -- YE'LL NA HAE THE
SATISFACTION O' SEEIN' THE PRIDE
O' GLEN CAMERON GROVEL AFORE
YER COWARDLY WEAPONS !

I'LL BREAK YE WITH BARE FISTS - AAA-A-A-A...

OKAY -- YA'RE ASKIN' FOR IT !

WHY DIDN'T YA LET ME
USE THIS ? THEY'LL HEAR
THAT SHOT AT THE
LOGGIN' CAMP !



NOT FAR AWAY, TWO OTHER "CITY FALLERS" HAVE INVADED THE BIG WOODS IN SEARCH OF NOTHING MORE SINISTER THAN RELAXATION --



-- BRUCE WAYNE, WEALTHY SPORTSMAN, AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON!



LOOK -- CITY GANGSTERS! AND THERE ARE TWO LUMBERJACKS ON THE GROUND, DEAD OR WOUNDED!



WELL, WELL -- IF IT ISN'T A FELLOW-CITIZEN
OF GOTHAM CITY -- BULL BEETON!

I WISH I WAS
SOMEBODY ELSE!

TOO BAD
I DIDN'T WEAR
MY HOBNAILED
BOOTS!

A STORM OF SNARLING SLUGS DRIVES THE
DYNAMIC DUO TO COVER ...

IF I GET THE
BATMAN, I'M
GONNA HAVE HIM
STUFFED FOR A
TROPHY!

THIS WILL BE
GOOD--IF IT
WORKS!

A PERFECT
CAST--BUT I'D
HATE TO HAVE TO
EAT WHAT I'VE
CAUGHT!

HAW,
HAW!
MISSED
ME!

OW! WHO THREW
THAT STICK O'
DYNAMITE?

WE GOTTA
BEAT IT!

YA'RE
TELLIN'
ME!

AFTER
THEM,
ROBIN!

A LOAD OF GAWN LOGS, LEFT BY WORK-
MEN AT THE SOUND OF THE DINNER
BELL, BLOCKS THE TRAIL...

MAKE IT FAST, YOUSE GUYS!
I GOT AN IDEA HOW TO STOP
THE BATMAN AND ROBIN!

I HOPE YA
AIN'T
KIDDIN'!

YOU'D SAVE YOURSELVES
A LOT OF TROUBLE BY
GIVING UP NOW, BULL!

I'D
SAVE
TROUBLE,
ALL
RIGHT--



LATER, WHEN FIRST AID HAS BEEN ADMINISTERED TO THE ONE LIVING VICTIM OF THE COWARDLY SHOOTING...

THAT'LL HAVE TO DO TILL WE CAN GET YOU TO A DOCTOR, SCOTTY!

THEY GOT AWAY AND OLAF IS DEAD! HAVEN'T YOU ANY IDEA WHAT THEY WERE AFTER?



BUT THE DAGGER-BRANDED TREE HAS ALREADY STARTED ITS JOURNEY TO THE MILL...



THEN WE'D BETTER LOOK IN THE RIVER!

YOU WOULD NOT FIND IT BEEN A LIFETIME, M'SIEU! ZERE ARE TOUSAN'S OF LOGS, EACH EXACTLY LIKE ZE OZZER!



ANYWAY, THESE FISH DIDN'T GET AWAY -- AND THEY TASTE TWICE AS GOOD NOW THAT WE'VE WORKED UP AN APPETITE!

DO THEY?... I'VE BEEN SO BUSY, TRYING TO THINK WHY GANGSTERS SHOULD BE INTERESTED IN ONE PARTICULAR TREE OUT OF A MILLION, I HAVEN'T NOTICED!



WHAT STRANGE SECRET, SYMBOLIZED BY THIS SINISTER SIGN OF THE DAGGER, HAS LURED DESPERATE MEN FROM THEIR UNDERWORLD HAUNTS TO COMMIT MURDER IN THE DEEP WOODS? LET'S SEE IF WE CAN FIND A CLUE IN THE GRIM EVENTS YET TO COME ...



THAT NIGHT, VIOLENCE FLARES IN A NEARBY TOWN...

SURE I WORK ON THE LOGS AT THE PAPER MILL! WHY?
...OOOoo...

YA MEAN YA USED TO WORK THERE!

COME ON--WE GOTTA KNOCK A COUPLE MORE OFFA DA PAYROLL!



THE FOLLOWING MORNING...

EMPLOYMENT OFFICE
PERKINS PAPER COMPANY



YOU'RE ALL HIRED! THREE OF OUR LOG HANDLERS MET WITH MYSTERIOUS ACCIDENTS LAST NIGHT AND ARE LAID OFF!



FROM THE DIGESTER, THE SOLUTION GOES THROUGH BLEACHING AND TINTING VATS AND INTO THE PAPER MACHINES! IT COMES OUT OF THE ROLLERS AT THE END AS FINISHED PAPER!



MEANWHILE, AT THE LOCAL POLICE STATION...

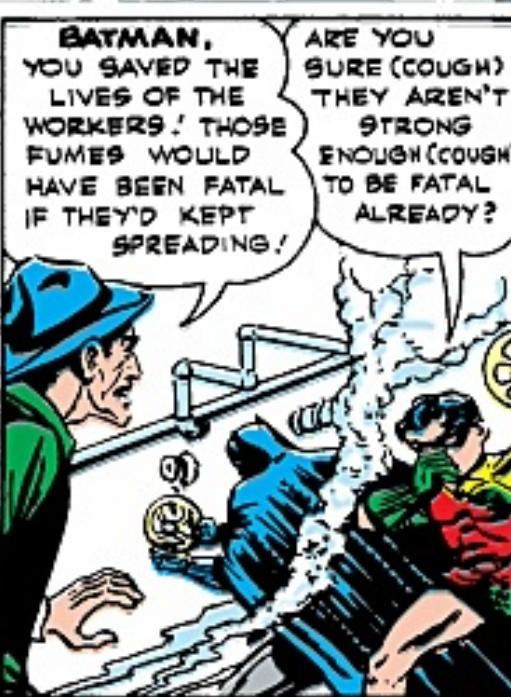
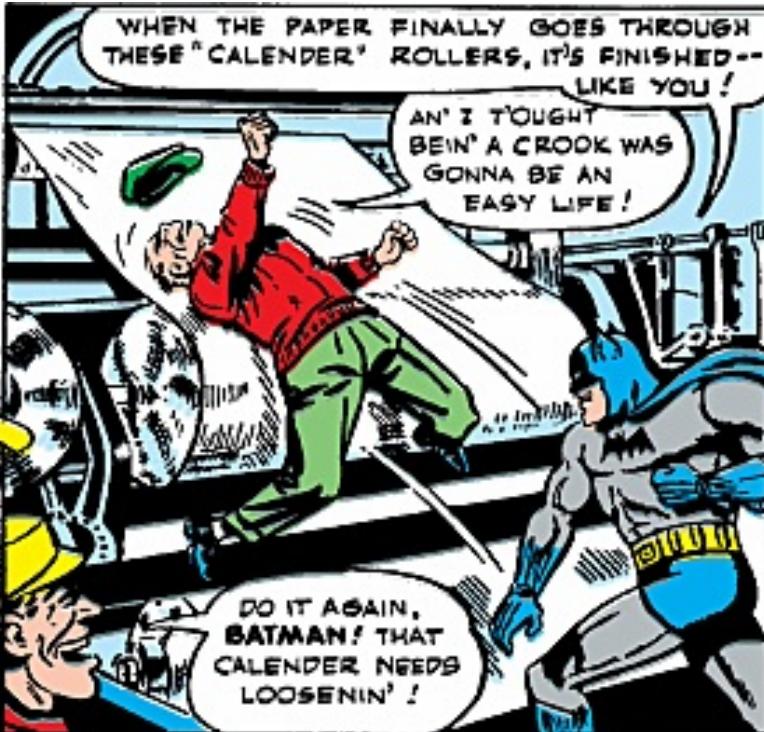
NO, I AIN'T SEEN NO SUSPICIOUS CHARACTERS -- BUT SOMEBODY BEAT UP THREE O' THE PAPER MILL WORKERS AN' SENT 'EM TO THE HOSPITAL LAST NIGHT!

HMM--THAT MEANS THE PAPER MILL WILL HAVE TO HIRE THREE NEW MEN! I GET THE PICTURE!

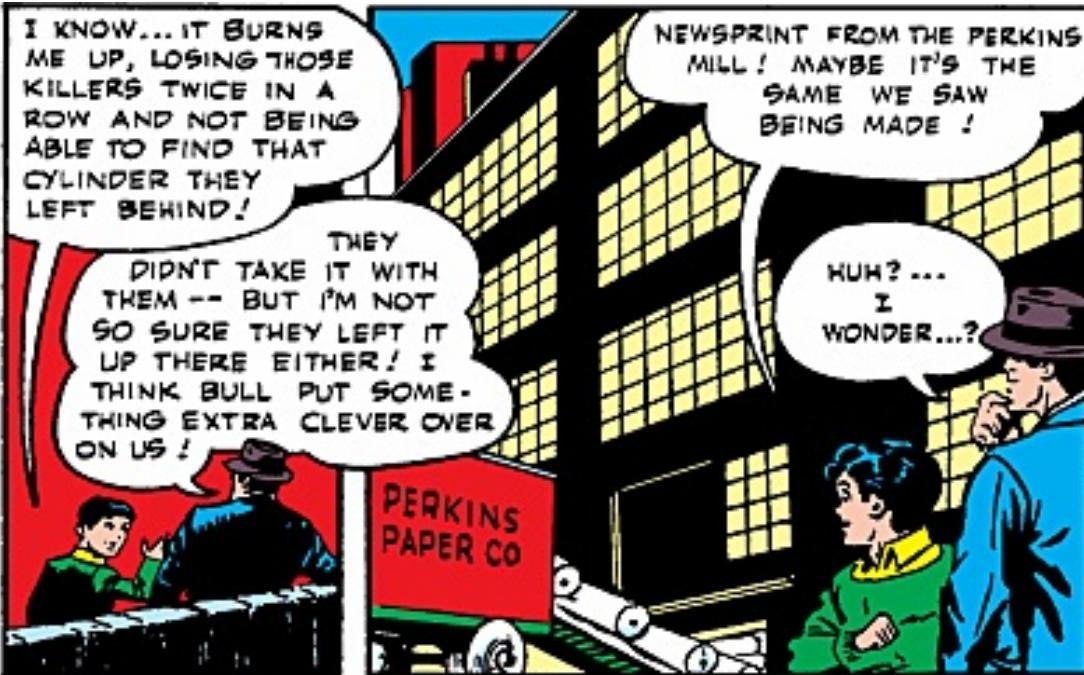








BUT A CAREFUL SEARCH FAILS TO REVEAL EITHER THE MYSTERIOUS CYLINDER OR THE FUGITIVE CRIMINALS --- AND TWO DAYS LATER ...



MIDNIGHT -- AND THE NIGHT WATCHMAN AT THE PRINTING PLANT HAS UNEXPECTED VISITORS...



A GOOD IDEA, SQUIDGE -- BUT A TRIPLE LATE!

NOW LET'S GO OUT AN' CELEBRATE OUR -- HUH? ... DAT SHADDER ...

LIKE A GREAT BIRD OF PREY A MANTLED FIGURE SWOOPS -- THE BATMAN!

NO! NO! IT CAN'T BE TRUE!

LOOKS LIKE I'M JUST IN TIME!

AM I GOIN' CRAZY -- OR DOES IT LOOK LIKE A BAT?

BUT IT IS TRUE, MY FINE-FEATHERED FELONS!

A FEW OUNCES OF LEAD WILL TIP THE BALANCE OUR WAY!

IF I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN HOW I USED TO BIRL LOGS, MAYBE I CAN BREAK THIS UP!

HEY, KID -- WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOIN'! YOU'LL HURT SOMEBODY!

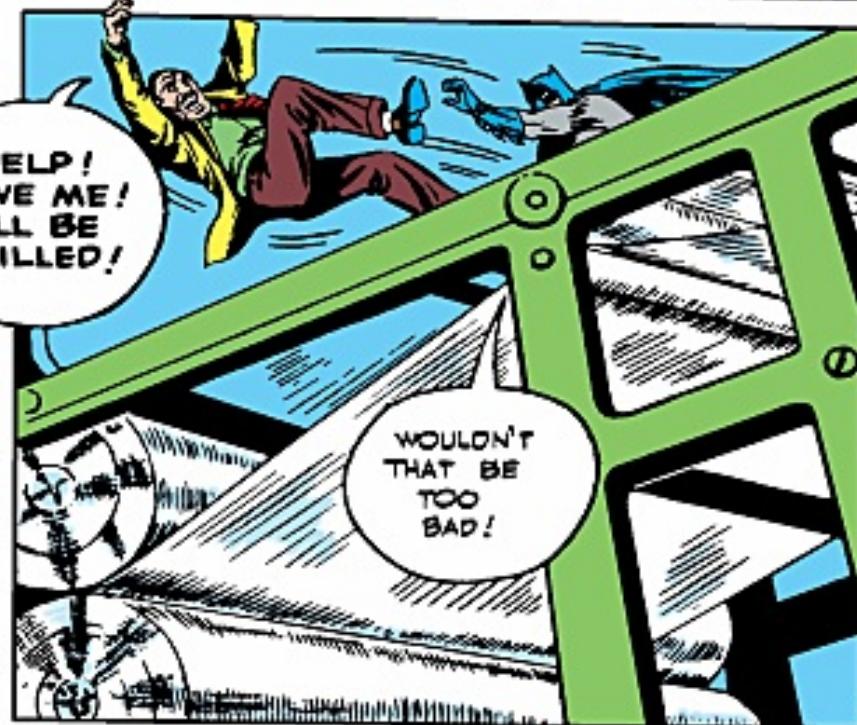
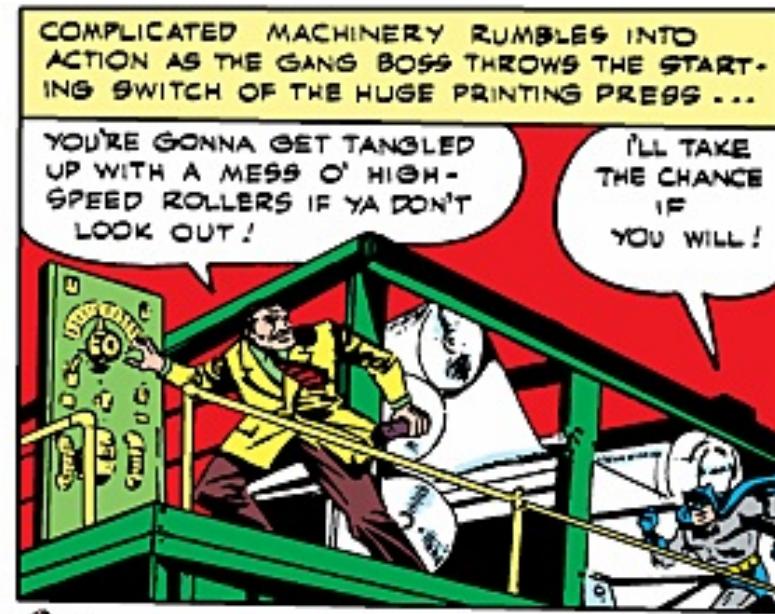
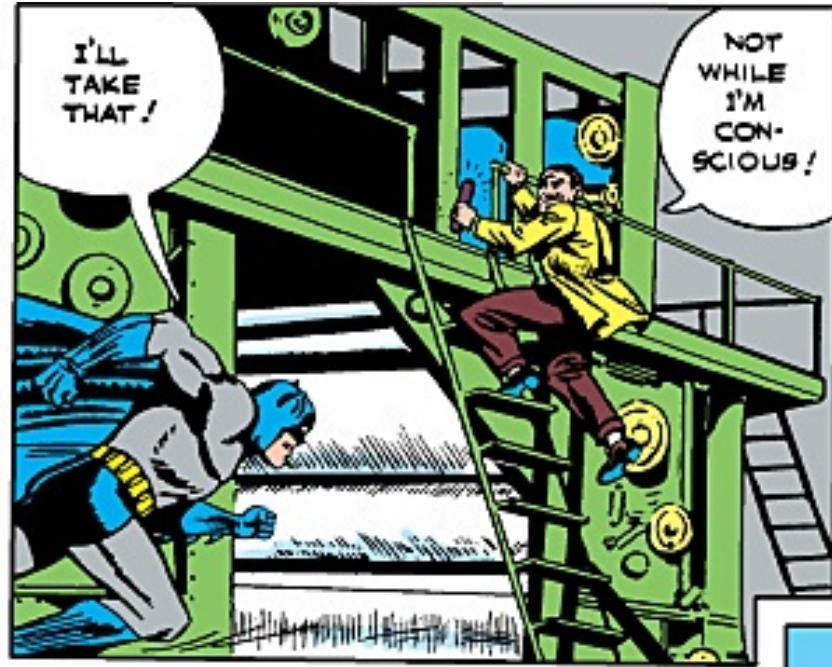
I'M JUST PLAYIN' STEAM-ROLLER!

NICE WORK, ROBIN!

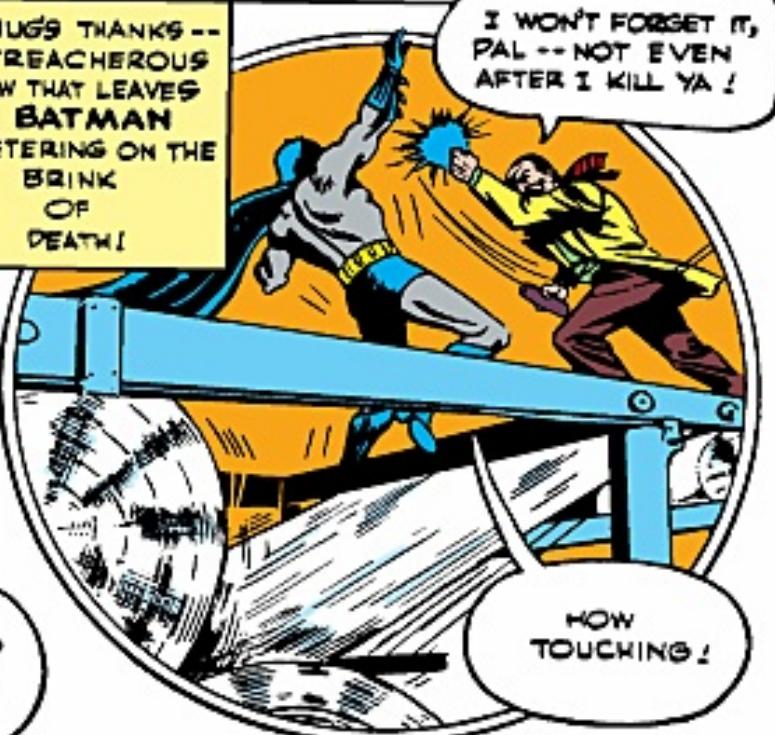
OOPS -- SLIPS!

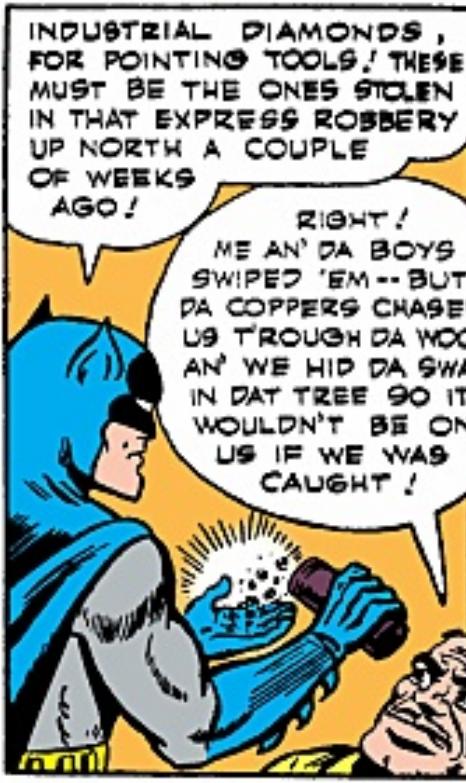
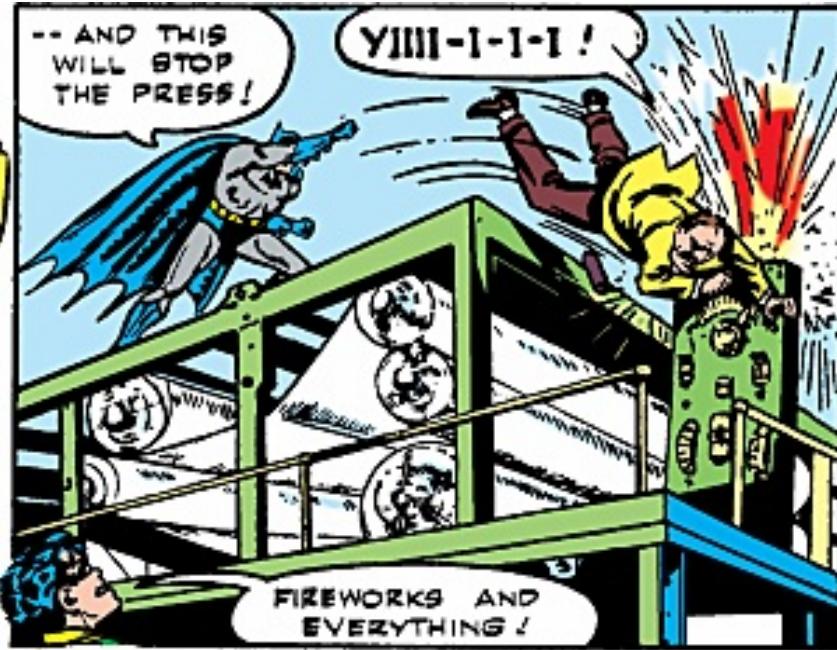
YOU TWO BACK FOR MORE? THIS'LL LAST YOU QUITE A WHILE!

OUCH! YA DONE THAT ON PURPOSE!



A THUG'S THANKS -- A TREACHEROUS BLOW THAT LEAVES THE BATMAN TEETERING ON THE BRINK OF DEATH!





THIS IS ONE ISSUE WE HAD PLENTY TO DO WITH! BESIDES FURNISHING THE ADVENTURE, WE WATCHED THE TREES CUT AND THE PAPER MADE AND DELIVERED -- AND WE'RE THE FIRST READER9!



THE END

WHAT'S MORE, GENTLE READER, MY ADVENTURES AS A SHEET OF PAPER HAVE HARDLY BEGUN! NOW THAT YOU HAVE FINISHED MY STORY, I'LL MOVE ON TO THE NEXT BATMAN FAN -- AND THE NEXT -- AND WHO CAN SAY WHAT FRIENDS I'LL MAKE AND WHAT THRILLING THINGS I'LL SEE BEFORE THE SALVAGE MAN STARTS ME OUT ON A BRAND NEW CAREER?

BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

- THE BOY WONDER -

Two's a perfect fighting team, and three's a crowd in the case of the BATMAN and ROBIN -- and what a crowd, when the third is the singular gentleman you are about to meet! Landing in the midst of violence after a violent crossing of many oceans, nonchalantly attracting violence wherever he moves, this amazing fellow gives America's ace crime-smashers the most violent surprise of their lives -- and makes them like him for it! You have never before encountered anyone quite like him, but you'll be eager to see him again!

AND NOW SIT TIGHT, FOR --
"HERE COMES ALFRED!"

BOB
KANE



NIGHT--AND A SMALL PASSENGER VESSEL ENDS A PERILOUS WAR-TIME CROSSING OF THE ATLANTIC AT A GOTHAM CITY PIER...



TWO SHIPBOARD ACQUAINTANCES SAY GOODBYE, NEVER DREAMING THAT THE HAND OF FATE WILL CAST THEM TOGETHER AGAIN SOONER THAN THEY THINK...

THE PARTIN' OF THE WAYS, MR. LEDUC! IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE TALKIN' TO YOU--AND I WISH YOU THE BEST, AND ALL THAT BALLY TOSH!



YOU'RE GASTON LEDUC, EH? AND THIS IS YOUR PERMIT TO ENTER THE COUNTRY WITHOUT UNDERGOING INSPECTION... ALL RIGHT--YOU MAY PASS!

CUSTOMS INSPECTION

"HOW TO BE A DETECTIVE IN TEN EASY LESSONS!... SO YOU'RE A SLEUTH?

AND RAWTH'R GOOD AT IT, IF I DO SAY SO!

HAMMER...

IVE KNOWN ALL ALONG THERE WAS SOMETHIN' MYSTERIOUS ABOUT THAT GENTLEMAN!

TRY AS I WOULD I COULDN'T MAKE HIM TALK ABOUT HIMSELF! I'VE HALF A MIND TO FOLLOW HIM NOW!

WELL, IT'S A FREE COUNTRY, AND YOU'RE IN IT! ... NEXT!



AT THE PIER EXIT, THREE SWARTHY INDIVIDUALS WATCH THE NEW ARRIVALS WITH BEADY, GLITTERING EYES...

ON GUARD! IF YOU MISS OUR MAN, MY DAGGER WILL NOT MISS YOUR SCRAPPY BODIES!

I AM NOT AFRAID, MANUEL! MY EYES ARE AS KEEN AS YOUR KNIVES!



AND IN TURN, THE WATCHERS ARE WATCHED BY TWO DARK FIGURES THAT BLEND OMINOUSLY WITH THE SHADOWS!

SO THAT'S MANUEL STILETTI, THE INTERNATIONAL CROOK! WHAT DO YOU THINK HE'S UP TO, BATMAN?

THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO FIND OUT! ALL I KNOW IS, WHENEVER MANUEL AND HIS CUTTHROATS ARE ON THE PROWL, TROUBLE ISN'T FAR AWAY!



PRESENTLY...

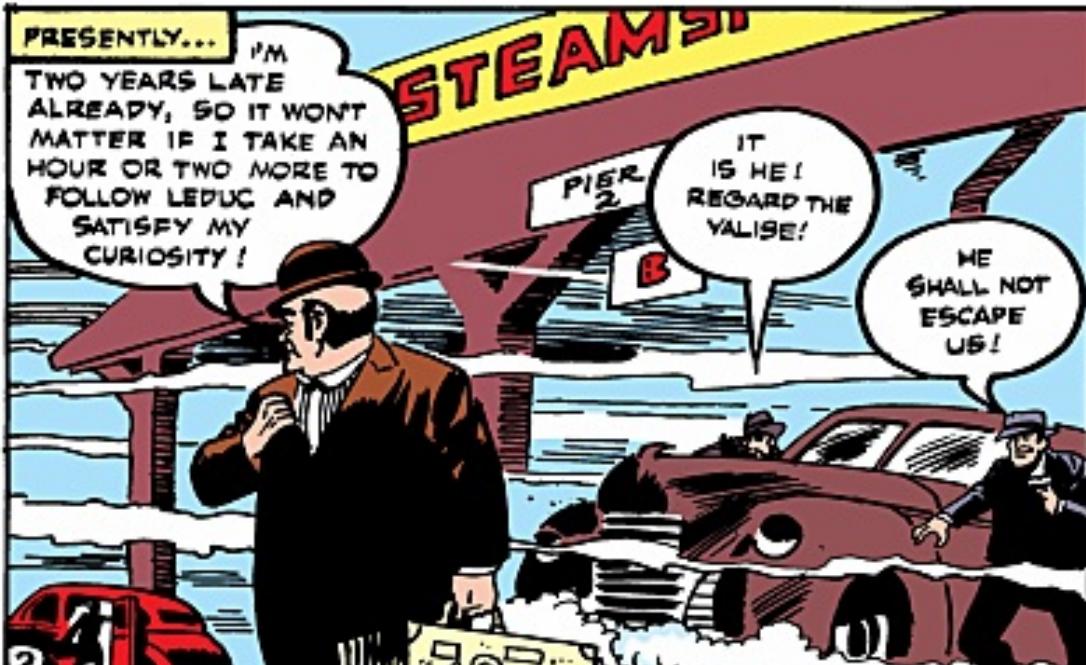
I'M TWO YEARS LATE ALREADY, SO IT WON'T MATTER IF I TAKE AN HOUR OR TWO MORE TO FOLLOW LEDUC AND SATISFY MY CURIOSITY!

STEAM!

PIER 2

IT IS HE! REGARD THE VALISE!

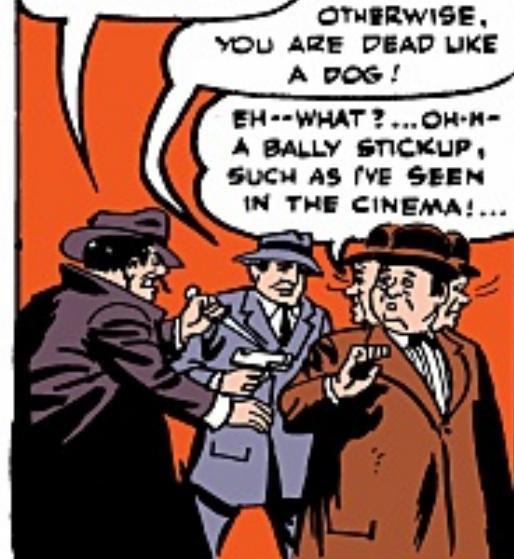
ME SHALL NOT ESCAPE US!



GIVE ME THE VALISE QUIETLY, AMIGO, AND PERHAPS I SHALL LET YOU LIVE!

OTHERWISE, YOU ARE DEAD LIKE A DOG!

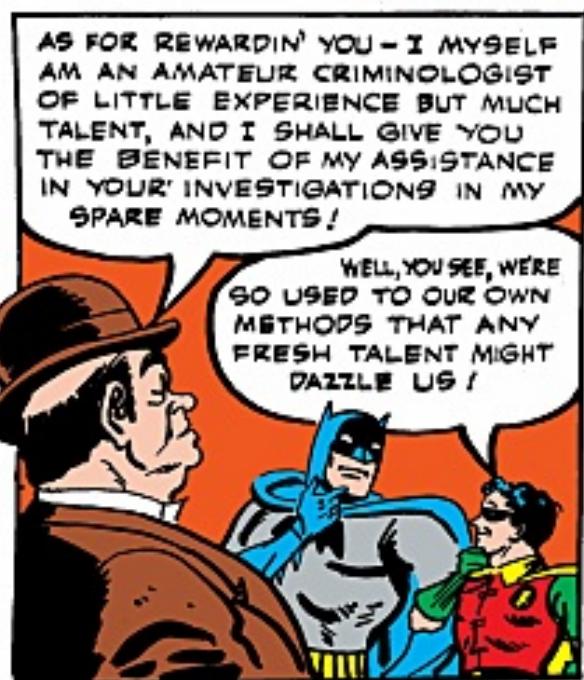
EH--WHAT?...OH-H-A BALLY STICKUP, SUCH AS I'VE SEEN IN THE CINEMA!...



I'M AFRAID YOU BLIGHTERS
WILL HAVE TO WAIT TILL
I'VE FINISHED MY BOOK!

TWIN TORNADOES OF JUSTICE
THE BATMAN AND ROBIN,
DASH TO THE RESCUE OF THE
SCARED BUT NONE-TOO-MEEK
VICTIM!

-- BUT IT ISN'T EVERY DAY I GET
A CHANCE TO PUT MY MARK ON
A FAT RAT LIKE MANUEL STILETTI!



LATER, AS THE ADVENTURERS PREPARE
TO GO TO BED...

THAT WAS A
GOOD ONE, BRUCE--
TELLING HIM TO
CALL ON US, WHEN
NOBODY KNOWS
WHO THE BATMAN
AND ROBIN ARE,
OR WHERE THEY
LIVE!

OH WELL--MAYBE
HE FANCIES HE'S
SMART ENOUGH
TO FIND US !

IMAGINE
A DUMMIE LIKE HIM FIND-
ING US WHEN SOME OF THE
SMARTEST MEN IN THE WORLD
HAVE TRIED AND FAILED!...
OH, OH -- SOMEONE'S
AT THE DOOR!

WHO
CAN IT BE
AT THIS
HOUR?

PROBABLY
SOME OF
YOUR
NIGHT-OWL
SOCIETY
FRIENDS!

THE NEXT INSTANT...

GOOD EVENIN',
GENTLEMEN! I
TRUST I HAVEN'T
DISTURBED YOUR
REST!

ମହା?

ALL JUST SET
MY LUGGAGE DOWN, IF
YOU'LL PERMIT ME--
AND THEN WE'LL
DISCUSS MY
DUTIES!

WHAT A TIME
I HAD GETTIN' HERE,
MR. WAYNE! IT WAS
NECESSARY TO WAIT A YEAR
FOR A SHIP IN ENGLAND-AND
THE ONE I FINALLY GOT
STARTED BY WAY OF THE
INDIAN OCEAN!

BUT--
BUT -- BUT --

TWO SHIPS WERE TORPEDOED UNDER ME AND I SPENT A FORTNIGHT ADRIFT ON A LIFE RAFT! BUT MY MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE HAPPENED WITHIN THE HOUR, WHEN THUGS ATTACKED ME AND THE BATMAN AND ROBIN PROVED THEM OFF!

WHY,
THEN--YOU
DIDN'T
KNOW--

**QUIET,
DICK!**

I'VE ALWAYS ADMIRER THE
BATMAN AS A BROTHER
CRIMINOLOGIST, Y'KNOW--
BUT WOULD YOU BELIEVE
IT, WHEN HE ASKED ME
TO CALL, I QUITE FOR-
GOT TO ASK HIS
ADDRESS !

WELL!

QUITE A TIME YOU'VE HAD! BUT NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, MR.--ER--ER?

YOU MAY CALL ME "ALFRED" WITHOUT THE "MISTER" -- AND IT'S I WHO WILL DO FOR YOU! YOU SEE, I'M YOUR NEW BUTLER!

BUTLER! BUT I HAVEN'T HAD ONE IN YEARS! I DIDN'T SEND FOR ONE, AND I'M AFRAID I DON'T WANT ONE!

WE'VE FOUND WE CAN GET ALONG BETTER WITHOUT SERVANTS OF ANY KIND!

IT MAY BE A BIT AWKWARD AT FIRST, SIR-- BUT I DARE SAY YOU'LL GET USED TO ME!

YOU MAY REMEMBER MY FATHER, JARVIS, WHO WAS YOUR FATHER'S BUTLER FOR MANY YEARS. THE POOR OLD GENTLEMAN WAS HEARTBROKEN WHEN I FORSOOK THE FAMILY CALLING TO BE AN ACTOR IN THE MUSIC HALLS!

SO YOU'RE THE SON OF GOOD OLD JARVIS! HOW IS HE?



GONE, SIR... AND ON HIS DEATHBED, HE MADE ME PROMISE TO MEND MY WAYS AND COME TO YOUR HOUSE IN AMERICA! SO YOU SEE, EVEN IF YOU DON'T WANT ME, THERE ISN'T ANY HELP FOR IT!

UH-- WELL--

BUT I MUSTN'T KEEP YOU STANDING HERE IN YOUR BATHROBES... I'LL TURN DOWN THE BEDS AND MAKE THINGS READY FOR THE NIGHT!

AND I THOUGHT I'D SEEN PRETTY NEAR EVERYTHING!

BUT WE CAN'T HAVE HIM DOING HIS AMATEUR SLEUTHING HERE! IF HE SHOULD FIND OUR SECRET LABORATORY AND THE TUNNEL TO THE BAT-PLANE HANGAR, HE'D REALLY KNOW THE IDENTITY OF THE BATMAN AND ROBIN!

YOU'RE RIGHT... BUT I HAVEN'T THE HEART TO SEND HIM PACKING TONIGHT! I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING IN THE MORNING!



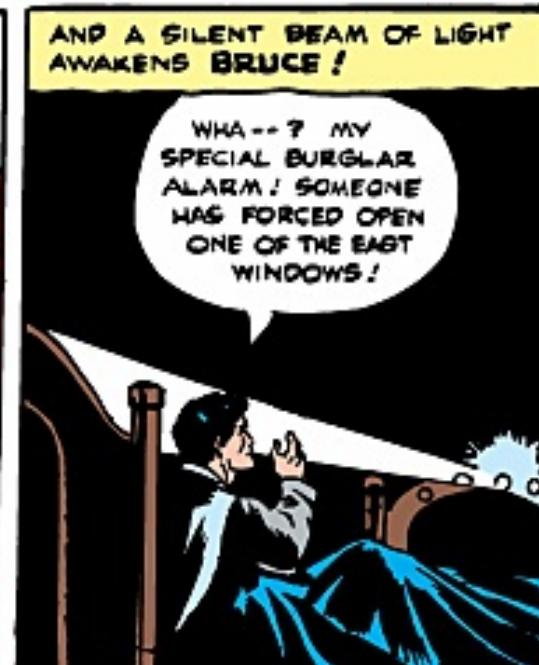
BUT BEFORE DAWN A FURTIVE TRIO APPROACHES THE WAYNE HOME...

THIS IS UNTHINKABLE... THAT WE SHOULD FAIL! IF WE DO NOT GET THE VALISE TONIGHT, MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WILL SLIP THROUGH OUR FINGERS!

RATHER WOULD I ROT IN PRISON THAN HAVE THAT HAPPEN!

AND A SILENT BEAM OF LIGHT AWAKENS BRUCE!

WHA--? MY SPECIAL BURGLAR ALARM! SOMEONE HAS FORCED OPEN ONE OF THE EAST WINDOWS!



OH, YOU'RE AWAKE ... MY BURGLAR ALARM IS ON, AND I WONDERED IF YOU KNEW-- BUT I SEE YOU DO!

GET INTO YOUR UNIFORM, IN CASE WE HAVE TO GO OUT-- AND DON'T FORGET, WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE UP SOME EXPLANATION FOR THE BATMAN AND ROBIN APPEARING HERE IF WE DON'T WANT TO GIVE OURSELVES AWAY!

AND NOW LET US JOIN THE REMARKABLE ALFRED AS HIS ENTHUSIASM FOR HIS NEW JOB CARRIES HIM FAR INTO THE NIGHT...

MISTER WAYNE IS A NICE PERSON BUT A TYPICAL BACHELOR! LOOK AT THESE NEWSPAPERS, WEEKS OLD AND NOT YET TAKEN OUT!... HMM-- THIS PICTURE...

IT IS HE, GASTON LE DUC! NO WONDER I SENSED SOMETHING MYSTERIOUS ABOUT HIM! I MUST LOOK HIM UP AND LET HIM KNOW I PIERCED HIS INCOGNITO!

A MOMENT LATER ...

SO-- YOU THOUGHT TO ESCAPE! YOU DID NOT THINK WE WOULD FOLLOW YOU, EH?

BLAWST IT! IF I RESIST IT WILL DISTURB THE MAESTERS --AND A GOOD BUTLER NEVER LETS THAT HAPPEN!

THERE IS NO BATMAN TO SAVE YOU NOW, ENGLISH DOLT! LEAD US TO THE VALISE BEFORE MY TRIGGER FINGER BECOMES IMPATIENT!

IT'S IN THIS ROOM!... YOU CAN HAVE IT --BUT PLEASE DON'T KILL ME!

AH! AT LAST! THE TREASURE IS OURS!

BLESS ME-- I KNEW THAT VALISE WAS OLD, BUT I NEVER DREAMED IT WAS A VALUABLE ANTIQUE!

I SAY-- IT'S BAD ENOUGH TO STEAL, BUT IT'S DOWNRIGHT CRIMINAL TO DESTROY A THING WHILE THERE'S STILL USE IN IT!

PABLO, HE ANNOYS ME! KILL HIM!

WITH THE GREATEST OF PLEASURE!

SUDDENLY...

YOU ROTTEN MURDERERS! DIDN'T THINK I COULD FOLLOW YOU, DID YOU?

I SAY, OLD CHAP, YOU'RE CERTAINLY WELCOME!

YOU AGAIN!

YOU ARE AS GOOD AS DEAD, BATMAN! MANUEL NEVER MISSES!

I'LL BET YOU GET A KICK OUT OF THIS!

VIPE!

WELL, HARDLY EVER!

WHAT -- 2... I SHALL HAVE REVENGE FOR THIS, BRAT!

HAW! DEUCED CLEVER!

JUST TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE YOUR FULL QUOTA OF BAD LUCK!

I AM ASSASSINATED!

THOSE OF THE CRIMINALS WHO ARE STILL ABLE EXIT WITH INELEGANT HASTE...

WAIT, TOMAS! YOUR LEADER SHOULD GO FIRST!

THEY'RE GETTING AWAY! COME ON, ROBIN!

THEY'RE GETTING INTO A CAR! I'LL GET THE BATMOBILE!

BETTER TIE THIS FELLOW BEFORE HE COMES TO!

YES, SIR! AND ABOUT YOUR ADDRESS--

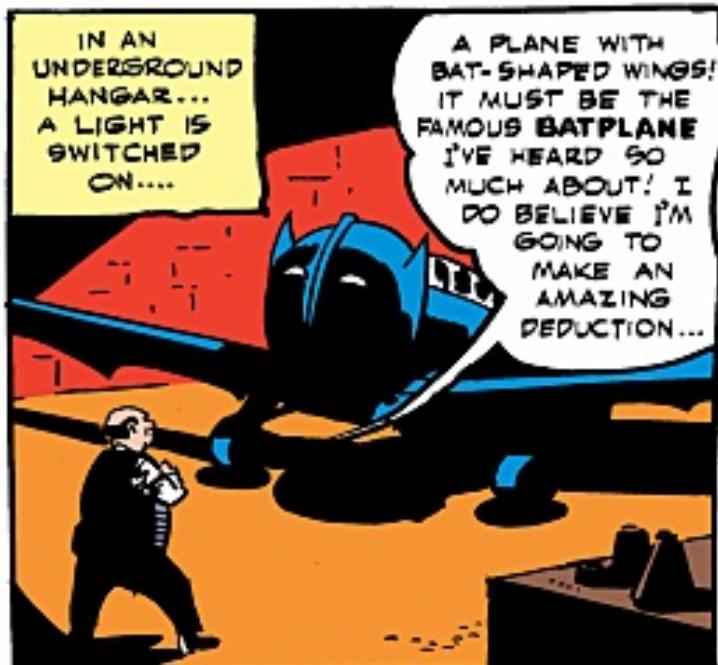
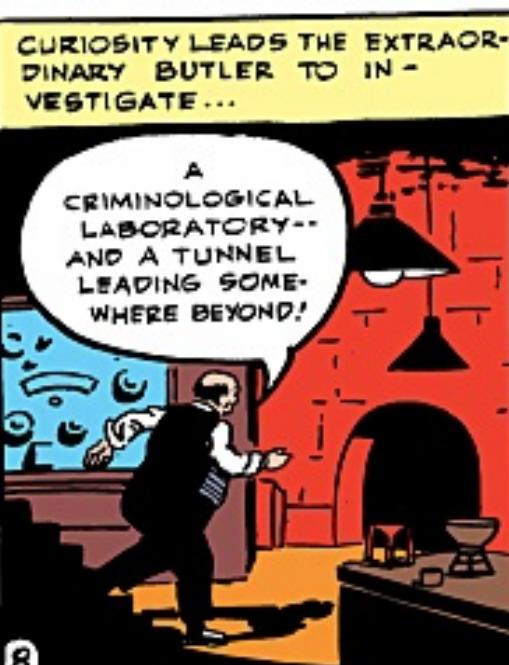
STRANGE... HE DIDN'T SEEM TO HEAR ME ASKING WHERE HE LIVES!... OH, WELL -- I'LL SEE WHETHER MR. WAYNE AND MAWSTER DICK HAVE BEEN DISTURBED BY THE NOISE AND TIE UP THIS BLIGHTER LATER!

PRESENTLY...

MAWSTER DICK
IS NOT IN HIS
ROOM... AND MR.
BRUCE HAS VANISHED
ALSO! HERE IS A
MYSTERY WORTHY
OF MY GREATEST
TALENTS!

I SHALL
CONSULT MY
DETECTIVE BOOK
AND -- EH, WHAT'S
'PON MY SOUL, THE
BLIGHTER HAS
REVIVED AND IS
COMIN' AWFTER
ME!

SO---THE
PLEASURE OF
KILLING YOU HAS
BEEN DELAYED,
BUT NOT
LOST!



MEANWHILE, NEVER DREAMING THAT THE ALL-IMPORTANT SECRET OF THEIR DOUBLE IDENTITY HAS BEEN PIERCED BY A STROKE OF LUCK, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN JOIN IN HOT PURSUIT OF THE FLEEING MANUEL ...

THERE THEY ARE -- TURNING THAT CORNER AHEAD! STEP ON IT! IF WE DON'T CATCH THEM NOW, WE MAY NEVER HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE!



STEEL MUSCLES FORCE A LOCKED DOOR, AND THE DYNAMIC DUO VENTURES INTO COBWEB-DRAPED DARKNESS ...

SPOKY PLACE, ISN'T IT? I'LL BET NOBODY'S BEEN HERE FOR YEARS!

YOU'D LOSE YOUR MONEY! EVEN ALFRED WOULD KNOW BETTER SEEING THESE FOOT-PRINTS IN THE DUST!



BRRR-R-R! I CAN HEAR THE GHOSTS OF DEAD PLAYS MOANING!

THERE'S A STRANGE WHIRRING SOUND COMING FROM SOMEWHERE!



A STRANGE SOUND IN-DEED -- AND AN OMINOUS ONE -- FOR IT IS MADE BY WHIRRING ENDS OF WEIGHTED ROPES SWUNG BY AN EXPERT HAND IN THE SHADOWS OF A BOX...

TOO LATE! THE NEXT INSTANT, HISSING COILS WHIP AROUND THE LIMBS AND BODIES OF THE STARTLED CRIME-CRUSHERS...

WHA--? A BOLA!



AS FINE A CAST AS WAS EVER MADE! NOW TO FINISH THEM!



BOUND AND GAGGED, THE HAPLESS PRISONERS ARE HOISTED ALOFT...

AT LAST YOU HAVE BEEN OUTWITTED, BATMAN! YOU CANNOT SHOUT FOR HELP--AND IF YOU BREAK YOUR BONDS, YOU WILL BE PASHED TO PIECES BY THE FALL!

SOON WE SHALL BURN THE THEATER ABOUT YOUR EARS--BUT FIRST, WE SHALL BRING A THIRD VICTIM TO SHARE YOUR FIERY FATE!

LEFT ALONE, THE FLIGHT OF THE BATMAN AND ROBIN SEEMS HOPELESS...

WE'VE BEEN IN TIGHT SPOTS BEFORE, BUT I CAN'T SEEM TO RECALL ANY TIGHTER THAN THIS!

IF ONLY THEY HADN'T GAGGED US! IT MIGHT HELP TO TALK THINGS OVER!

OUTSIDE THE ANCIENT THEATER, THE TWO CRIMINALS ARE JOINED BY THEIR COMPANION...

WE THOUGHT THE POLICE WOULD HAVE YOU BY NOW, AND WE WERE HEART-BROKEN BECAUSE YOU WOULD MISS YOUR SHARE OF THE SWAG!

YOU MEAN, YOU'RE HEARTBROKEN BECAUSE I'M HERE TO CLAIM IT!... IT WAS A SIMPLE MATTER TO ESCAPE FROM THAT PIGHEADED BUTLER!



"ONCE A MUSIC HALL ACTOR, ALWAYS A HAM," IS A SAYING THAT HOLDS GOOD HERE AS ELSEWHERE...

PUTS ME IN MIND OF THE TIME I PLAYED THE ROLE OF A COCKNEY BUTLER IN A HAUNTED HOUSE... HOW DID IT GO... 'ARK--WOT'S THAT NOISE? CAN IT BE 'M'ANOTHER SPIRIT COME TO 'AUNT ME?'

OR PERHAPS THE BATMAN HAS BEEN HERE AND GONE... NO SIGN OF HIM... HUH--QUITE A WHILE SINCE I'VE STOOD BEHIND THE FOOTLIGHTS!



WE HAVE LEARNED THE THIRD MAN'S IDENTITY AND PRESENT ADDRESS FROM THE LABELS ON THE VALISE WHICH GAVE US SO MUCH TROUBLE! THEY FORMED A COPE MESSAGE SENT BY OUR CLEVER COLLEAGUES ABROAD!

DEATH FOR YOU AND A VAST FORTUNE FOR US! IS IT NOT DROLL?

WHILE BEHIND A CONVENIENT BARRIER...

PIGHEDDED INDEED! I LET THE BLIGHTER ESCAPE SO I COULD FOLLOW HIM! THE BATMAN AND ROBIN MUST BE INSIDE AND I MAY AS WELL LET THEM SEE THAT I'M ON THE JOB!



HIGH OVERHEAD, AN UNAPPRECIATIVE AUDIENCE HEARS LINES OF LOWBROW MELODRAM...

IF ONLY HE'D FORGET THE CORN AND LOOK THIS WAY!

THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO ATTRACT HIS ATTENTION... MAYBE IF I START SWINGING...

H'I'M FAIR FED H'UP WITH GHOSTS, SO H'I H'AM! H'I SHALL TURN IN MY NOTICE!

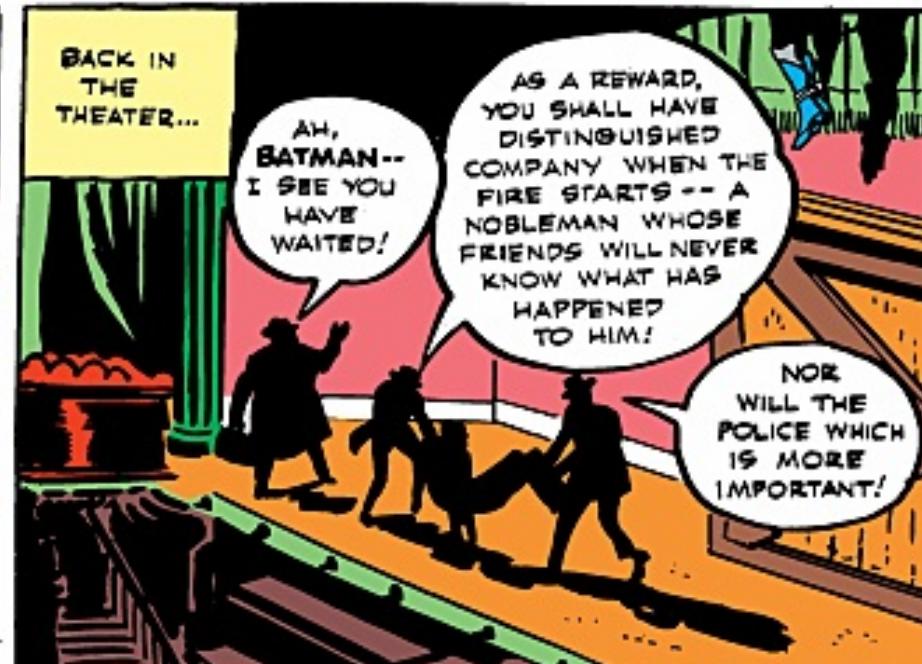
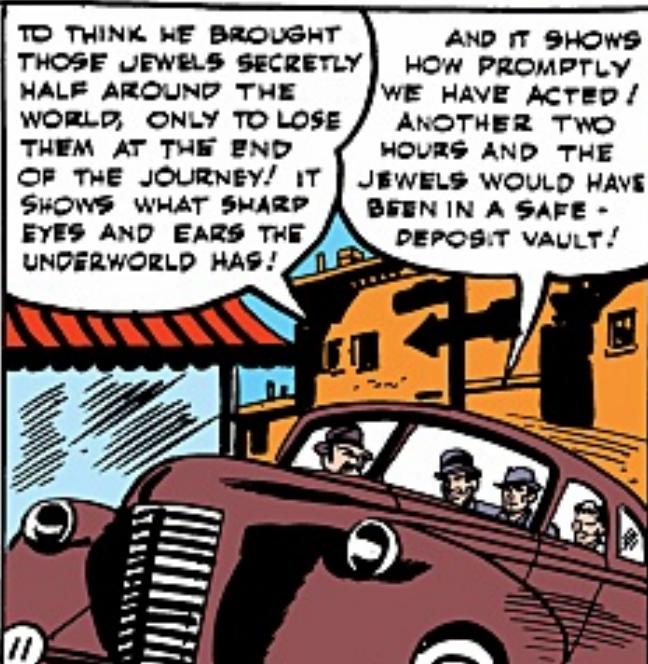
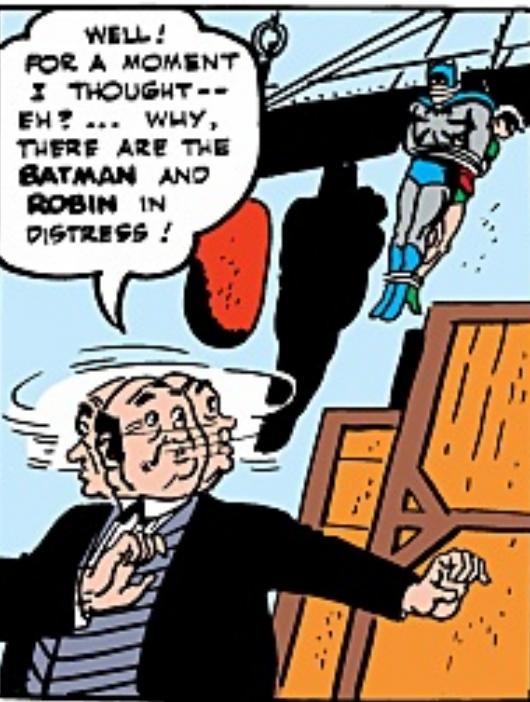


BACK AND FORTH, IN EVER-WIDENING SWEEPS, THE BATMAN SWINGS HIS BODY-- UNTIL AT LAST HIS BOUND FEET CATCH ON A LOOSE ROPE ...

HERE'S HOPING IT WORKS!

WRETCHING LIKE A SERPENT, THE ROPE WHIPS ACROSS THE STAGE ...

OH-H-H-H-H! IT'S REALLY HAPPENIN'!



BUT WITH LIGHTNING SWIFTNESS,
HOODED FIGURES PLUMMET
FROM THE SHADOWS OVERHEAD!

YOU'RE ABOUT
TO HAVE SOME
DISTINGUISHED
COMPANY YOUR-
SELF -- AND
WE'RE IT!

THIS
CANNOT BE!
IT IS A
JOKE!

WHA--!

QUICKLY,
TOMAS -- KILL
THEM OR ALL
IS LOST!



TIME TO
RING DOWN
THE CURTAIN
ON THIS ACT!

LOOK OUT,
TOMAS!

IT IS
THE
BATMAN
WHO HAD
BETTER LOOK
OUT!

BEFORE DEADLY STEEL
AND LEAD CAN
STRIKE, ALFRED
LOOSENS A ROPE IN
THE WINGS... AND THE
CURTAIN, WITH ITS
HEAVY WOODEN
FRAMEWORK, HUR-
TLES DOWNWARD!



A FITTING
FINALE FOR A
BAD ACTOR!
EH, WOT?

HERE'S
AN
ALL-STAR
ACT
TO FINISH
THE
BILL!



SO THESE
ARE WHAT THEY
WERE AFTER! BUT
WHERE DID THEY
COME FROM AND
WHO DO THEY
REALLY BELONG
TO?

IF YOU
WILL PER-
MIT ME,
SIR, I CAN
ELUCIDATE
THE MYSTERY!

WH-
WHERE
AM
I?

THEY ARE THE CROWN JEWELS OF
THE COUNTRY OF WHICH THIS MAN--
THE DUKE OF DORIAN--IS THE
PREMIER! HE BROUGHT THEM
HERE SECRETLY FOR HIS GOVERN-
MENT, BUT SOME-
HOW THESE
CRIMINALS
GOT WIND
OF IT!

MY FRIEND!
YOU HAVE SAVED
MY LIFE AND MY
COUNTRY'S TREAS-
URES--AND TO THINK
I LAUGHED WHEN YOU
SAID YOU WERE AN
AMATEUR
DETECTIVE!

AND HE
WASN'T THE ONLY
ONE WHO LAUGHED!

THE FOLLOWING EVENING...

ALFRED'S PRETTY PROUD SINCE WE GAVE HIM FULL CREDIT FOR THIS CASE! I REALLY THOUGHT HE'D DONE A GREAT JOB OF DETECTING, TILL IT TURNED OUT HE GOT ALL HIS INFORMATION BY ACCIDENT!

FOR AWHILE, I WAS AFRAID HE'D FIND OUT WHO WE REALLY ARE-- BUT IF WE'RE CAREFUL, IT WILL BE SAFE TO LET HIM STAY, SINCE HE ISN'T TOO BRIGHT!

BEG PARDON, SIRS... YOU'LL BE GOING OUT DIRECTLY, AND I THOUGHT I MIGHT ASSIST YOU WITH YOUR UNIFORMS!

WHAT'S THIS?

HUM?... THOSE CLOAKS... WHY, WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

DO GOTHAM PROLIFERATE WAYNE BUTTER GATORS CROWN JEWEL THIEVES

THE SEARCHLIGHT WENT ON A FEW SECONDS AGO! I BELIEVE IT MEANS THE POLICE REQUIRE THE BATMAN'S SERVICES!

THE SIGNAL!... BUT-- BUT WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH US?

YOU FORGET MY DEDUCTIVE ABILITIES! I HAVE KNOWN SINCE LAST NIGHT THAT YOU WERE THE BATMAN AND ROBIN-- BUT I SAW NO REASON TO MENTION IT TILL NOW!



WELL, YOU'RE ONE OF US NOW, ALFRED! I HOPE YOU REALIZE THAT IF YOUR KNOWLEDGE LEAKED OUT, ROBIN'S LIFE AND MINE WOULD BE FORFEIT. CRIMINALS WOULD HAVE AN EASIER TIME OF IT!

I UNDERSTAND PERFECTLY, AND YOU MAY RELY UTTERLY ON MY DISCRETION! YOUR CLOAK, SIR...

I DON'T THINK WE NEED TO WORRY!

MOMENTS LATER, THE BATPLANE RACES THROUGH THE NIGHT SKY...

AND AS THE PARING HEROES KEEP ANOTHER RENDEZVOUS WITH HIGH ADVENTURE, ALFRED MAKES A COMPROMISE WITH HIS CONSCIENCE!

THEY ARE SO IMPRESSED WITH ME, IT WOULD NEVER DO TO TELL THEM I LEARNED THEIR IDENTITY BY SHEER LUCK! MUCH BETTER TO ACT MYSTERIOUS AND SAY NOTHING!

ALFRED CAN BE USEFUL, AT THAT! HE SAVED OUR LIVES IN THE THEATER! HE MUST BE SMARTER THAN WE THINK TO HAVE SEEN THROUGH OUR DISGUISE!

KEEP AN EYE ON ALFRED! YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE LAST OF HIM!